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OPINION METER

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600 checks remain unpaid to SHEFA scholars for fall 2010. **PAGE 5**

Another Mobil gas price hike

»Shell expected to follow suit today

By HAIDEE V. EUGENIO
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REPORTER

Saipan motorists saw yet another 10 to 15 cents increase in the pump prices of gasoline at Mobil Oil Marianas service stations yesterday, as crude oil hovered around $110 a barrel, stoked by the unrest in Libya and other Middle East countries.

RELATED NEWS

Oil hovers near $97 as traders eye Libyan exports. **PAGE 13**

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A Mobil service station displays the new pump prices yesterday.
HAIDEE V. EUGENIO

Regular gasoline: $4.359 a gallon
Premium gasoline: $4.679 a gallon
Diesel: $4.669 a gallon

Fitial asks for Kilili's help on congressional measures

WASHINGTON, D.C.—Seeking to maximize the Commonwealth's benefits from Covenant 702 funding, Gov. Benigno R. Fitial has submitted a list of three proposals to Delegate Gregorio Kilili Sablan for consideration and congressional action.

The proposals call for the reestablishment of original 702 allocation levels; funding of a training program to aid in the transition of Commonwealth employees to the private sector; and reprogramming of Covenant 702 Funds to address long and short-term financial issues.

Fitial

Fitial's first proposal calls for an amendment to an existing federal statute to allow

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Senate panel to scrap or shorten 5-year wait period

By HAIDEE V. EUGENIO
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REPORTER

The Senate Federal Relations and Independent Agencies will either totally scrap or reduce the additional five-year waiting period for foreign workers to be able to apply for improved immigration status, if they have been in the CNMI at least 10 years as of May 2008.

If the five-year additional waiting period is not totally scrapped as other senators want, it will be reduced to two or three years as others are pushing for, Senate President

See SENATE on Page 4

RED CROSS DONATION

Acting governor Eloy S. Inos, right, is all smiles as American Red Cross-NMI Chapter executive director John Hirsh, left, announces that the local chapter of the Red Cross will be donating an emergency defibrillator to the Office of the Governor, right after Inos signed yesterday afternoon a proclamation declaring March 2011 American Red Cross Month. An emergency defibrillator greatly increases a victim's chances of survival when suffering from a cardiac emergency such as a heart attack.

HAIDEE V. EUGENIO

Local

NMC presidential search panel votes for top 5 picks

By MONETH G. DEPOSA
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REPORTER

The presidential search committee is expected to endorse their top picks for Northern Marianas College president to the Board of Regents this week after completing interviews with the top five finalists on Friday.

Highly placed sources told *Saipan Tribune* yesterday that committee members used a five-point scale—five being the highest—to assess each candidate in separate Skype interviews.

From the original seven finalists for NMC president, the number went down to five following the withdrawal of two applicants.

The remaining five—all from off-island—are Drs. Jeff Armstrong, John Whittaker, Sharon Hart, David Allen, and Christa Adams.

Of the five, only Hart applied for the post the first time the vacancy was announced. That first search failed and NMC launched the second search in December.

Saipan Tribune learned that the interview process was composed of two rounds. Search committee members individually rated the candidates based on their responses to specific queries.

To determine the final top picks, the ratings given by each committee member were tallied by the college's human resource manager. The panel members themselves don't know the total score of each candidate.

The final result will be disclosed at the next board meeting for formal endorsement. No more than three candidates will endorsed to the board. The board may either select or reopen the position if not satisfied with the endorsed bets.

NMC has had no permanent president since the departure of Dr. Carmen Fernandez in January 2010 as a result of investigations conducted against her. A lawsuit is pending in court.

The search panel, which earlier vowed to practice "transparency" in the process of hiring a president, refused to disclose any information to the *Saipan Tribune* when pressed. PSC members declined to comment on the status of the search, saying they're bound by certain "protocols."

The lack of a permanent president was among the concerns raised by the Western Association of Schools and Colleges when it first sanctioned NMC with a show-cause order. The institution has only until March 15 to submit its report indicating all corrective measures taken.

NMC has had seven presidents in the last 10 years.

'Quitano is a member of the notorious CK Brothers'

»Band of robbers allegedly fast, hard to catch

By FERDIE DE LA TORRE
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REPORTER

Fernando C. Quitano, a man on trial for his role in the 2009 armed robbery at a pawnshop that injured two persons, is a member of "CK Brothers," a group believed to be behind some of the armed robberies on Saipan, according to a detective.

Testifying in court, detective Jesse J. Stole said that the group of Quitano and co-defendant Marlon Martin is fast and difficult to catch when they stage armed robberies.

Martin has already pleaded guilty to armed robbery and was sentenced in April 2010 to seven years in prison, with no parole.

Stole said Quitano and Martin have been "partners" since they were young and the two are on top of their list as suspects in some armed robbery cases.

If not for the aid of two good Samaritans who joined one of the victims in chasing the suspects, Stole said that Martin would probably not have been arrested after the robbery at 24 Hours Pawnshop in Chalan Kanoa on Oct. 23, 2009, because the group had a getaway vehicle.

Stole said another member of the group cooperated with the investigators and was not charged.

Quoting the suspect who cooperated, he was supposed to pick up Martin, but someone (the good Samaritan) was following their car.

Stole said he became the lead investigator in the case after then detective Christopher Leon Guerrero failed to show up at the preliminary hearing in the case. At that time, Leon Guerrero was facing extortion charges in federal court. He has since been acquitted of all charges.

Leon Guerrero, now a civilian, also testified yesterday for the government. He said among the recovered pieces of evidence at the crime scene were an air gun rifle and a sledgehammer.

Leon Guerrero said that an individual had provided him information during their investigation that it was Quitano and Martin who robbed the pawnshop. He said the information corroborated the evidence and testimonies of the victims and other witnesses.

The other suspect, Leon Guerrero said, was only a passenger of the getaway vehicle. He was arrested but not charged due to his cooperation with investigators.

The cashier of the 24 Hours Pawnshop, who was first on the witness stand, completed his testimony yesterday morning.

Police said that Martin first hit the cashier's booth's door with a sledge hammer; Quitano joined in by smashing the door with a crowbar. The two then allegedly attacked the cashier and the then 72-year-old owner Jung Sang So.

So has already gone back to South Korea and has reportedly vowed not to return to Saipan because of that violent encounter.

Quitano's jury trial will continue today, Wednesday.

Associate Judge David A. Wiseman is presiding over the trial. Assistant attorneys general Russell Lorfing and Tiberius Mocanu are prosecuting the case. Attorney Stephen Woodruff is counsel for Quitano.

Drunk man allegedly beats up 2 women; dares cop to shoot him

An intoxicated man allegedly beat up two women, challenged a police officer to shoot and catch him, and threw rocks at parked patrol cars in San Antonio on Friday.

Marley Buchun, 28, was arrested for assault and battery, and disturbing the peace. Bail was set at $2,000 cash.

Detective Catherine B. Pangelinan stated in her report that a patrol officer had responded to the parking lot of Pacific Islands Club in San Antonio on Friday at 1:37am after receiving a call about disturbance.

Pangelinan said as the patrol officer proceeded to the parking lot, he saw a woman and a man later identified as Buchun arguing and pushing each other.

As the officer approached, Buchun ran into the security office's area, but moments later came back and confronted the officer, yelling and screaming for the officer to shoot and catch him.

Buchun then picked up rocks and hurled them toward the parked police patrol cars. The vehicles were not hit.

As other officers arrived, Buchun jumped over the fence and made his way to PIC premises. The officers lost sight of him.

At 3:20am that day, officer Isapen Bokuku went back to PIC and arrested Buchun, who was found by hotel security staff sleeping in the kitchen.

Police learned that prior to the incident, Buchun was drinking with friends at the PIC barracks when two women came to pick him up. Buchun got mad and allegedly threw down one of the women on the ground and choked her. When the other woman tried to stop him, Buchun allegedly slapped her.

The report did not mention the relationship between Buchun and the two women. ***(Ferdie de la Torre)***

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CUC: Chlorine contract enough to meet EPA's requirement

By FERDIE DE LA TORRE
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REPORTER

The Commonwealth Utilities Corp. believes that its chlorine contract with its supplier is sufficient to meet the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency's requirement pursuant to a federal court's stipulated order.

CUC legal counsel Deborah E. Fisher said yesterday that the stipulated order did not require that the chlorine contract list specific amounts of chlorine CUC must purchase.

"Rather, it required that CUC enter into a chlorine contract [that] is adequate to carry out the chlorine disinfection requirements," said Fisher in CUC's report filed in the U.S. District Court for the NMI on Monday.

She pointed outat that the first stipulated order states that "CUC shall develop and enter into a long-term contract, for at least one year, for chlorine shipments adequate to carry out the chlorination disinfection requirements."

EPA had disapproved CUC's chlorination long-term contract in November 2010, noting that the contract does not fully ensure that the total number of chlorine cylinders to be supplied will satisfy CUC's monthly and 90-day inventory needs.

EPA underscored last week the need for CUC to have an emergency supply of chlorine on Saipan before the onset of the typhoon season. EPA said CUC has not been maintaining the required 90-day backup supply of chlorine on island.

In CUC's Monday report, Fisher pointed out that because the contract provides that CUC can buy as much chlorine as they need from the supplier, CUC believes that on its face it satisfies the requirements of the first stipulated order.

She said the issue for CUC is that the contract ends in July 2011, and CUC prefers to wait until the expiration of the contract to re-negotiate or begin a new procurement.

In addition, she said, CUC would like EPA to provide contract language that it will find acceptable, as CUC prefers not to negotiate with a chlorine supplier without first being sure that the new language will be approved.

As far as the actual amount of cylinders present on island, the lawyer said that CUC previously provided a requisition voucher to EPA to show it has ordered more cylinders to address this concern. "CUC will be following up on this issue to see if we can have up to the minute data for the status conference," she said.

EPA said the use of chlorine is critical to ensuring that drinking water in the CNMI does not endanger human health.

CUC's Monday report was addressed to U.S. District Court for the NMI designated judge David O. Carter, EPA's legal counsel Bradley R. O'Brien, and CNMI Attorney General Edward T. Buckingham.

March celebrates roles of women in NMI society

By CLARISSA V. DAVID
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REPORTER

The CNMI community paid tribute to the contributions of women in the society with the observance of Women's Day and Women's Month.

Acting governor Eloy S. Inos signed yesterday a proclamation designating March as CNMI Women's Month and March 8 as CNMI Women's Day.

"Women of the CNMI have made historic contributions to the growth and strength of the Northern Mariana Islands in countless recorded and unrecorded ways," Inos said in his proclamation.

According to Inos, the women of the Commonwealth continue to play a critical role in the various aspects and institutions in the community.

"I call upon the people of the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands to unite, support and observe the month of March as CNMI Women's Month and March 08 as CNMI Women's Day with appropriate programs, ceremonies, and activities," he said.

Yesterday's proclamation signing was witnessed by officers and members of the newly established CNMI Women Association, including female government officials, legislative staff, and representatives of various government agencies.

"Now is the time more than ever where women should also play a very important role not only in the life of their family but also in the affairs of the community at large," said CNMI Women Association president Susana Blas Deleon Guerrero.

According to Deleon Guerrero, women should become advocates of the poor and neglected families and youth, drug abuse prevention, violence against women, prostitution as well as start taking active role in the political process of the island communities.

"I am so happy and proud to be part of you who have survived very difficult times in life such as financial hardships and domestic violence, illnesses, and the loss of loved ones. We now have become strong and it is our turn to reach out and serve," she said.

House Vice Speaker Felicidad Ogumoro, who was present during the proclamation signing, said they have arranged numerous activities in March to honor all women in the CNMI.

"This March, we are going to celebrate women throughout the Commonwealth for all their contributions that make our strong community," she said.

These activities include the International Women's Day luncheon on March 8, various workshops throughout the month, meeting with Washington Delegate Gregorio Kilili Sablan on March 22, culminating with a mass at the Mount Carmel Cathedral on March 27.

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TOYOTA

Independent panel review on CUC privatization bill junked

By HAIDEE V. EUGENIO
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REPORTER

A conference committee on the Commonwealth Utilities Corp. privatization bill removed yesterday a provision allowing for a five-member independent review panel to conduct bid evaluation in the event that the Public Utilities Commission has less than three members.

This was a provision that Gov. Benigno R. Fitial earlier said "creates another bureaucratic layer which is unnecessary" as CUC is already subject to PUC review.

The House and Senate joint committee also exempted PUC appointees from Rota and Tinian from the current restriction on government employees or employees of entities that PUC regulates.

Under the six-member conference committee's bill, Rota and Tinian residents could be appointed to the PUC even if they are government employees or employees of entities that PUC regulates.

These are among the changes that the conference committee on House Bill 17-114, SS1, SD1, SS2 worked on yesterday, right after the House rejected the Senate's latest amendment to the bill.

The conference committee substitute 1 will is expected to be finalized today.

HB 17-114 generally removes the $250 million price tag to privatize CUC. The bill will also allow for CUC to start negotiating with renewable energy companies.

The latest draft from the committee as of yesterday afternoon also exempts independent power producers from the net metering requirement of Public Law 15-87.

Sen. Juan Ayuyu (Ind-Rota), who heads the Senate conferees, said it is time for CUC to start partnering with private firms that are engaged in renewable energy sources such as wind, solar, biomass, among other things.

He said there's been about a dozen foreign renewable energy companies that have so far visited the Legislature and the administration, but these companies could not formally partner with CUC because of restrictions in the law.

Rep. Stanley Torres (Ind-Saipan), author of HB 17-114 and head of the House conferees, echoed Ayuyu's statement.

Senate President Paul Manglona (Ind-Rota) said the conference committee's bill still ensures that bids are properly reviewed, as the Senate has been pushing for.

ANOTHER

From Page 1

Shell Marianas is expected to mirror today Mobil's price hike that went into effect at 10am yesterday.

Mobil's, and then Shell's, latest price hike comes barely 11 days after they increased their prices by 5 cents and barely five weeks after another 8-cent increase.

Regular unleaded gasoline on Saipan now costs $4.359 a gallon, after a 10-cent increase.

Super or premium unleaded gasoline is now $4.679 a gallon, up from $4.579 a gallon also because of a 10-cent hike.

Diesel went up by 15 cents a gallon, from $4.519 to $4.669 at Mobil stations.

Jesus "Pitu" S. Barcinas, who was filling up his pickup truck at Mobil Middle Road yesterday, said "there should be a price control" in the CNMI.

"Right now, once Mobil and Shell decide they want to increase the price, then they just do that. The government is not doing anything about it," he said, adding that he left government because of corruption in his department.

Jojo Valencia, a resident of Puerto Rico, said motorists are kept in the dark as to the timing of the pump price increases. He said it seems like Mobil and Shell are always quick to increase their prices, even when he thinks the new shipment that the two companies bought at a higher price has not even reached Saipan yet.

"We don't even know whether this latest price increase is a result of what's happening in Libya or Middle East. Did they get the latest shipment? And if they did, is this what we're paying now?" he said, after he just filled his vehicle with $30 worth of gas, which he said would last for only two to three days.

The latest price increase is the third for 2011, and the ninth since 2010.

Since February 2009, Saipan motorists have seen an increase of at least $1.70 a gallon in gasoline prices from what they used to pay.

Jay Abigancia, of San Antonio, said since he can't do anything about gas prices, he would just cut his other household expenses, especially going out or hanging out. He said the $10 gas he put into his car yesterday would last for only two days.

Ben Aizon, of China Town, said he's disappointed that Mobil again increased its prices less than two weeks since the last one.

"We try not to go out anymore because of the gas price, except when we need to go to the store or to the bowling alley," he said.

Aizon said the $40 worth of gas he put into his pickup truck yesterday would last for only six days, unlike before when it would last over a week.

"Now my $40 is enough for only 9.176 gallons," he said.

Shell and Mobil do not issue advance notices of price increases. Many Saipan motorists only learn of such price changes by the price displays at gasoline service stations.

SENATE

From Page 1

Paul Manglona (Ind-Rota) said yesterday.

The waiting period is so far one of the key areas that the Senate committee will be amending as it finalizes its recommendation to the U.S. Congress.

Senate Vice President Jude Hofschneider (R-Tinian), who chairs the committee, said the additional five-year waiting period has been a point of contention.

But he and Manglona said the requirement of at least 10-year stay in the CNMI as of the signing of U.S. Public Law 110-229 in May 2008 will remain.

Under the Senate's draft recommendation to Congress, nonresident workers who have been in the CNMI for at least 10 years as of May 2008 will have to wait for five more years or until 2013 to apply for a status similar to those granted to Freely Associated States citizens.

An earlier draft proposed that those who have been in the CNMI for at least 10 years by May 2008 can immediately apply for a FAS-like status.

Manglona and Hofschneider said the recommendation will be finalized before Friday this week, following the committee's meeting.

A meeting scheduled for yesterday morning was postponed because of other matters that included a conference committee meeting and a hearing on public health's need for additional physicians.

Manglona and Hofschneider said the changes to the draft recommendation were a result of the public hearings held on Rota, Saipan and Tinian from Feb. 18 to 25.

The Senate president said if the additional waiting period is not totally removed, the two- or three-year waiting period will start immediately after Congress decides to grant these foreign workers in the CNMI a status similar to those granted to Freely Associated States citizens.

FAS citizens can freely travel, live, work and study in the U.S. mainland and its territories.

Once the Senate finalizes its recommendation, it will personally hand over its proposal to Congress in Washington, D.C. middle of this month.

FITIAL

From Page 1

the reinstatement of the Commonwealth's entitlement to the indefinite permanent appropriation for capital improvement funding amounting to $27,720,000 annually.

The governor noted that a critical element of the Covenant was for the United States to provide financial assistance to the CNMI for the establishment of critical infrastructure needed for the health and safety of the people.

"Undoubtedly, our struggling economy and the current average household incomes are just a couple of the factors why we cannot wholly absorb the costs of infrastructure development," said Fitial. "Because the CNMI consists of a chain of 14 islands, we have three independent infrastructure systems of schools, utilities, airports, seaports, and health centers for the islands of Saipan, Tinian and Rota."

Due to the reductions in Section 702 funding that have occurred in the last 17 years, the Commonwealth has been deprived of $297 million in funding that could have been used to meet infrastructure needs.

In order to adequately achieve infrastructure development, Fitial seeks the restoration of Section 702 funding levels to reflect the intent of the Covenant and at the original level of $27.2 million.

Transition

The governor also proposes the establishment of a training program to aid in efforts to transition public employees to the private sector. One of the critical steps in restoring the fiscal balance of the local government will be the reduction in the number of public employees.

While Fitial agrees that the depressed level of economic activity will make it difficult for the private sector to absorb these workers, he believes that establishing new training programs at the Northern Marianas College to provide new skills to the affected employees will enhance their opportunities for re-employment.

"The Commonwealth will seek congressional assistance for the funding and structuring of these training programs. These funds will be used to establish programs at the Northern Marianas College; the waiver of all associated fees and tuition for displaced workers; and job placement services. Although, this transition will present a very difficult time for the affected employees and their families, it can also be seen as an opportunity to provide improved skills specifically structured to future employment to a large sector of our islands," added Fitial.

CIP funds

The last on the governor's list of proposals aims for the temporary use of Covenant 702 Capital Improvement Funds to reduce outstanding long-term debt and address the immediate financial needs of the Commonwealth.

Due to the complexity of the Commonwealth Capital Improvement Projects and federal regulations, implementation requires three steps: environmental review, design, and construction. Thus complete project implementation often takes three years.

Fitial notes that during the three-year implementation period of projects, a large portion of dedicated funds sit dormant until the most costly element—construction or procurement—occurs in the final year. In view of this, the Fitial administration proposes that such Section 702 funds be used to reduce long-term debt and pay for critical Commonwealth services such as the health, law enforcement and compliance with U.S. Environmental Protection Agency requirements associated with CUC operations.

Aside from submitting his proposal to Delegate Sablan, Fitial had also communicated these issues with Assistant Secretary for Insular Affairs Tony Babauta and Nik Pula, director of the Office of Insular Affairs.

Fitial also met with U.S. House Speaker John Boehner yesterday before the close of the NGA Winter Meeting. Boehner's office has vowed to provide support to the Commonwealth and the other territories. ***(Office of the Governor)***

HAIDEE V. EUGENIO

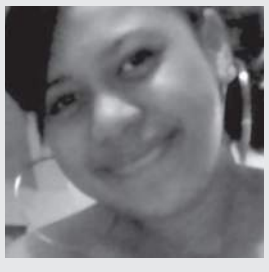
WOMEN'S MONTH

Acting governor Eloy S. Inos joins women leaders in the CNMI after signing a proclamation declaring March CNMI Women's Month. ***See story on Page 3.***

BIRTHDAY SHOUTOUT

Happy first birthday to baby Lei, who's celebrating her special day today, March 2, 2011. We love you! Greetings come from uncle Joe, aunty Lani, PJ, KJ, and the rest of day family from Virginia and Hawaii.

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO



A very big happy 18th birthday to Jerica Tiare Tapi Pialur! May God bless you and may you have many more birthdays to come! Enjoy your very special day! Greetings come from Zunia, Tori, your brother and sisters, and let's not forget your wonderful parents (They love you very much)!

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

600 checks remain unpaid to SHEFA scholars for fall 2010

By MONETH G. DEPOSA
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REPORTER

The 2010 fall semester is already done yet hundreds of students are still waiting for their checks from the Saipan Higher Educational Financial Assistance program.

SHEFA administrator Henry Hofschneider disclosed yesterday that 600 checks remain unpaid to scholars who were supposed to get it in the last semester.

On Jan. 20, check requests for 31 grant-in-aid scholars for fall 2010 were submitted to the Finance Department, totaling $41,200. These have not been acted upon up to this time, he said.

On Jan. 25, SHEFA made check requests for 134 field-of-study scholars, totaling $201,000, followed by another check request worth $255,000 for 170 scholars on Feb. 1. To date, not one of these 304 checks has been released.

Hofschneider also disclosed that 265 checks remain unpaid for the fall semester's incentive scholars. SHEFA first submitted a list of 147 check requests worth $294,000 on Feb. 18; followed by another 118 check requests this week, worth $236,000.

All 600 unpaid checks total $1.027 million. Once disbursed, this will fulfill SHEFA's obligation to all scholars for the last semester.

As of yesterday, SHEFA has yet to get any word from Finance as to when these checks will be issued.

Hofschneider cited the government's cash flow problem as the main factor for the delay.

Records show that SHEFA has already disbursed over $1.2 million for the fall 2010 semester.

SHEFA will be delaying the submission of check requests for the spring semester scholars until all pending obligations in fall 2010 are fulfilled.

SHEFA gets a yearly budget of $3 million for its scholarship programs.

MARCH IS CNMI AMERICAN RED CROSS MONTH

Red Cross donates defibrillator to the Governor's Office

By CLARISSA V. DAVID
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REPORTER

As part of its lifesaving mission, the American Red Cross NMI Chapter announced the donation of an automated emergency defibrillator to the Governor's office.

"We teach on a daily basis life-saving skills like defibrillator use and cardiopulmonary resuscitation. We've dedicated a lot of our resources on this by donating defibrillators to places like dive sites. Now, we're going to put one here at the Governor's Office," said executive director John Hirsh.

Hirsh made the announcement yesterday at the governor's conference room after acting governor Eloy S. Inos signed the proclamation designating March as American Red Cross Month.

When Hirsh asked where the defibrillator should be placed, Inos quipped, "Next to my office. The stress level out there is high."

In his proclamation, Inos said the American Red Cross performs a vital role in the community as it prevents and alleviates people's suffering during disasters and emergencies, reflecting the humanitarian and volunteer spirit of the people.

Inos urged the public to join the Red Cross' movement as they carry out its mission which includes supplying almost half of the nation's blood, teaching life-saving skills, providing international humanitarian aid, offering support to military members and their families, and providing support to victims of disasters.

"We're all partners in this noble cause. Despite the many challenges we face every day, folks like you give your time and effort and you to be commended for that," Inos told Red Cross volunteers.

Hirsh said that the local proclamation allows the CNMI to join the rest of the United States in celebrating the occasion and promoting Red Cross services following President Barrack Obama's signing of the proclamation last Feb. 28.

The executive director expressed his appreciation to all who have shown their support for the Red Cross and its activities through the years.

"The mission of American Red Cross is we're a volunteer-led organization. Our programs will not be possible without our dedicated volunteers and partners who are valuable in fulfilling our mission," he said.

Monthlong activities

Hirsh disclosed that they have lined up other activities in celebration of the American Red Cross Month.

The Red Cross High School Dance is slated for March 4 and 5, 6pm at the Saipan Grand Hotel's Club V. Super CPR Saturday is set on March 5, 8am at the Pedro P. Tenorio Multi-Purpose Center.

The American Red Cross will have an aid station during the Tagaman Triathlon on March 19 from 7am to 9am, followed by a volunteer appreciation picnic at the American Memorial Park from 10am to 2pm.

The celebration will culminate with the 25th Annual Red Cross Walkathon at 6am on April 9 on Saipan, Tinian, and Rota.

For Saipan, the walk will begin at the 4-H Building in Susupe to Garapan Fishing Base and back. On Tinian, the walk will start at the Taga Beach while it commences from Guata Park on Rota.

He said there are 30 schools, clubs, and organizations participating in the event that will have a chance to win exciting prizes under different categories.

The walkathon will also feature various games and activities for children, free blood pressure and blood sugar screenings, H1N1 vaccinations, and equipment demonstration from the Emergency Management System and Fire Department.

For more information, call Viola Sablan on Saipan at 285-4075; Arley Long on Tinian at 433-9333; and Pete Dela Cruz on Rota at 532-4400.

Written ruling on Sasamoto's acquittal out

Superior Court Associate Judge Ramona V. Manglona issued Monday a written decision explaining the acquittal of Jeremy Togawa Sasamoto of charges for assaulting veterinarian Dr. Edgar Gordon Tudor.

Manglona said she accepts and finds Sasamoto's version of how Dr. Tudor sustained his injury credible.

Manglona said she reviewed the four factors that the CNMI Supreme Court has set in order to justifiably claim self-defense. "Based on the evidence presented at trial, this court concludes that defendant has satisfied the four factors to justify his claim of self-defense, and that the government has failed to prove that he did not act in self-defense," the judge said.

In 2008, the CNMI Supreme Court adopted the majority view of the law of self-defense within United States jurisdictions that defendants are not required to retreat before using reasonable deadly or non-deadly force against unlawful aggressors.

In order to justifiably claim self-defense in exercising physical force, Manglona said, the following factors must be satisfied:

- The defendant must have a reasonable fear of imminent danger.
- The defendant may only use force against an unlawful aggressor.
- The defendant's use of force must be necessary.
- The defendant's use of force must be proportional to the aggressor's use of force.

Dr. Tudor had testified that Sasamoto had grabbed him by the neck with both hands. He reportedly deflected Sasamoto's grasp by raising both of his hands up and out, causing Sasamoto's hands to brush his eyeglasses into his face and causing a cut above his left eye.

Sasamoto testified that he punched Tudor in the left eye, but he never choked, strangled, and grabbed him by the neck.

After the bench trial on Feb. 7, 2011, Manglona acquitted the 37-year-old Sasamoto of the charges of assault and battery and disturbing the peace. ***(Ferdie de la Torre)***

Saipan, Tinian and Rota!

Join us this SATURDAY morning, MARCH 5, for a fun-filled walk with PSS!

LIVE HEALTHY: Life Walk with PSS

Registration Information:

Saipan: 5:30 a.m. to 8:00 a.m. – 13 Fisherman Pavilion

Tinian: 6:00 a.m. to 8:00 a.m. – Tachog'na Beach

Rota: 6:30 a.m. to 8:00 a.m. – Téteto Beach

DIABETES FACT:
Early Diagnosis Saves Lives and Your Eyes!

The American Diabetes Association reports that nearly 24 million children and adults in the United States have diabetes, and almost 57 million people have pre-diabetes. That is why it is so important to be aware of some of the risk factors: being overweight, having high blood pressure and/or high cholesterol, a family history of the disease, as well as many others.

The ADA has also estimated that less than 1/3 of diabetic patients are getting a dilated eye exam every year, even though diabetes is the leading cause of blindness. Please don't take a chance with something as precious as your eyesight.

We're here to help and to answer your questions, whether simple or complicated.

HARDT EYE CLINIC
235-2030

Whether you have an emergency, need a comprehensive eye exam or just have a simple question, we're here to help!

Yes, we accept your insurance—All major insurance plans accepted.

8 polling sites designated for Youth Congress election

By MONETH G. DEPOSA
moneth_deposa@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

The Legislative Bureau designated eight polling sites for Monday's Youth Congress election.

These include Saipan Southern High School's counseling office, which will be open from 8am to 2:30pm on March 7; Grace Christian Academy's chapel, open from 8am to 9:30am; and Kagman High School's counseling office, open from 7:45am to 1:45pm.

At Marianas Baptist Academy, the election will take place at its media room from 12:10pm to 12:50pm, while students on Rota may cast their votes from 9am to 2pm at the Rota High School library.

On Tinian, voters are advised to go to Tinian High School's cafeteria from 12:30pm to 3:30pm, while Marianas High School's home room will accommodate voters from 8am to 9:15am.

Legislative Bureau director Glenna SP. Reyes disclosed that there are nine candidates for this year's election.

They include Merceds Mesa for Kagman High School; Shelane Dela Cruz Borja for Saipan Southern High School; Thomas H. Barcinas for Rota High School; Mariana S. Quitugua for Rota High School; Angela Mamaril for Grace Christian Academy; Jessica Lee and Manatsu Omori for Marianas Baptist Academy; Audrey Joy Ada for Marianas High School; and Marquina Hofschneider for Tinian Jr./Sr. High School.

A total of 1,100 registered voters and seven private and public high schools will participate in Monday's election.

The bulk of voters are from SSHS with 380. KHS has 313; MHS, 209; RHS, 98; THS, 39; MBA, 27; and GCA, 34.

The Youth Congress election was supposed to take place last October but was postponed following the signing into law of Public Law 17-22, which reduced the number of youth senator seats—from 25 to only 10—based on the number of participating public and private high schools.

This law also postponed the election from Oct. 18 to March 7, 2011.

As required by P.L. 17-22, school principals shall conduct their school's election on Monday and designation of polling sites and the duration of the election timeframe will be determined by school principals.

The new law also mandates that election results shall be verified by school principals and certified by the floor leader of the House of Representatives within three days after the election. The elected youth senators will assume office on April 17, 2011.

The CNMI Youth Congress Reform Act of 2010 also increases the term of each elected youth senator, from one year to two years.

The Youth Congress, created through PL 8-27, seeks to provide a system that allows the youth to prepare to meet the challenges of the future and to make recommendations to policymakers on youth programs.

'Individuals with disabilities contribute to society'

By CLARISSA V. DAVID
clarissa_david@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

The importance of individuals with developmental disabilities as contributing members of the community was recognized following the proclamation designating March as CNMI Developmental Disabilities Awareness Month.

Acting governor Eloy S. Inos signed the proclamation yesterday afternoon at the governor's conference room, saying that the awareness month is a time to focus on helping the community better understand the significant contributions of individuals with disabilities.

Developmental disabilities affect over six million American children and adults.

"Residents with disabilities shall have equal access to all government services, employment, communication, labor, housing, public accommodations, education, transportation, health and child care, and recreation," Inos said in his proclamation.

To realize this, Inos said the CNMI Council on Developmental Disabilities is tasked to carry out its mandate of progressive advocacy, capacity building, and systemic changes to ensure that individuals with developmental disabilities have access to community services and other forms of assistance.

HAIDEE V. EUGENIO

Acting governor Eloy S. Inos, seated left, poses with community members and advocates right after signing a proclamation declaring March 2011 CNMI Developmental Disabilities Awareness Month in the governor's conference room yesterday afternoon.

"I encourage all citizens to give full support to efforts toward enabling people with developmental disabilities to live productive lives and achieve their optimum potential," said Inos.

Pamela C. Sablan, executive director of the Developmental Disabilities Council, told *Saipan Tribune* that they have lined up a series of activities for March in celebration of the Developmental Disabilities Awareness Month, including the survey and interview for the fiscal year 2012-2016 Five-Year State Plan, webinars, self-advocacy and sensitivity trainings.

She said the monthlong celebration will culminate with the Assistive Technology Fair and Functional Behavior Assessment Training on March 30 at the Fiesta Resort.

Trader mulls exporting fruits and vegetables to Guam

»Considers establishing cargo airline

By CLARISSA V. DAVID
clarissa_david@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

After announcing the temporary suspension of his proposed slaughterhouse project, businessman Anthony Pellegrino is looking at exporting locally grown produce to Guam.

"I'm still interested in agriculture. In fact, we're working on a way of getting fruits and vegetables to Guam," Pellegrino told *Saipan Tribune*.

Pellegrino said in an interview Monday that the Marianas Meat Harvesting Corp. is temporarily suspended due to risk factors that were identified after about five months of working on the project.

Pellegrino disclosed that he already has customers in Guam who want to buy fruits and vegetables from the CNMI.

"We've already talked to them. They already gave us an order. Our price is very compatible. In fact, we have a lot of fruits and vegetables [that] they don't have because farmers in Guam are producing less and less," he added.

Pellegrino, however, noted that shipping these locally grown produce to Guam poses a challenge. "The biggest problem we have is transportation. …It hinders the farmers here. We have a very limited transportation," he said.

To address this, Pellegrino said he is mulling the idea of a cargo airline. "Right now, we're talking to a company in trying to create a cargo airline. No people, just cargo to fly from Saipan to Tinian, Rota, and Guam." He declined to identify the company for now.

According to Pellegrino, he is working with the private company and has already identified the aircraft that can load up to 4,000 lbs of cargo made up of goods exclusive to each island such as hot pepper from Tinian or sweet potato from Rota.

"That's what we need, a means of transportation [that's privately owned,], not a commercial airline with passengers," he said.

Pellegrino said they are currently conducting a feasibility study and possibly a trial run later this month.

MARCH 4, 5 & 6, 2011
PACIFIC ISLANDS CLUB SAIPAN, CNMI
BEACH VOLLEYBALL
CONTINENTAL CUP
FIVB
AVC
CNMI's First Ever Olympic Qualifier*
Where: PIC Beachside
When: March 4, 5 & 6 – 8am - 5pm
Competition: National Teams Only – Best of 5 Round Robin
Countries: Australia, Papua New Guinea, FSM, Guam and the CNMI
Admission: FREE – open to the public
*This is a FIVB/AVC Subzonal Olympic qualifier. Top three teams advance through elimination process to China.
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MARIANAS VISITORS AUTHORITY
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Bronze
• Law Office of Michael A. White • Caronel Watch Center • Saipan Tribune • D&Q • Cosmos • Top Notch • ASC Guam • Pacific SubSea
• Herman's Modern Bakery • 360 Revolving Restaurant • Tropical Blend Spa • Truong's • Tony Roma's • Capricciosa • PIC Guam

DESPITE PLANNED FEDERAL BUDGET CUTS

363 beneficiaries of housing vouchers safe—for now

By CLARISSA V. DAVID
clarissa_david@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

All 363 families under the Section 8 Housing Choice Vouchers Program of the Northern Marianas Housing Corp. can heave a sigh of relief as they will not be removed from the program should the federal government push through with the proposed budget cuts on non-defense programs.

"Everyone knows that the federal government is making some tough decisions [on] funding. They're making big cuts to all discretionary programs that are not defense-related, section 8 being one of them," said corporate director Joshua Sasamoto.

Program and Housing Division manager Zerlyn Taimanao noted, however, that the budget cut remains unspecified to date. "We're still unsure of how much the cut is going to be. But they are just [cautioning] us that it will be cut. There will be funding cuts."

Following the formula given to them to calculate how many families in the program would be affected once the budget cuts are approved, Taimanao said there are about 55 families that will be removed from the program in the CNMI out of the over 500,000 nationwide.

Taking a pro-active approach, Sasamoto disclosed that the NMHC has about $1.1 million in unrestricted net assets coming from administrative fees that they deduct from federal funding they get under different grants.

The UNA can be used to cover expenses for housing assistance programs, according to Sasamoto.

Taimanao told *Saipan Tribune* that the UNA would cover the agency's operations, capacity building, salaries, including the funding deficit arising from the proposed budget cut.

"With our division, along with accounting [division], we have enough money to cover until 2012. None of our families will be affected because of our reserve fund, which we can use to pay," she said.

Taimanao, however, maintained that the UNA cannot be used to accommodate the over 600 waitlisted families as they were only allowed 363 housing vouchers by the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development.

"Different public housing authorities have different voucher numbers but for NMHC, we were given 363 only," she explained.

Only when families move out of the program will NMHC be able to accommodate those who are waitlisted, according to Taimanao.

"The waiting time to get into the program is like six to 10 years, maybe even more," she said, adding that waitlisted families can stay on the list until they ask to be removed.

Fund authorizes fiduciary audit

By MONETH G. DEPOSA
moneth_deposa@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

The NMI Retirement Fund decided Friday to hire an off-island consultant so it could get more information about the performance of its former investment consultant, Merrill Lynch, which is being sued by three retirees for allegedly giving "bad advice" to the Fund.

The board of trustees approved a $25,000 contract for Independent Fiduciary Services Inc. to conduct a systematic fiduciary audit for the Fund. This is the first time in the Fund's history to commission this type of report.

The board and the Fund are being sued in both local and federal courts for various matters. And the lawsuits could snowball, with the state Senate's passage of a bill that seeks to expand shareholder derivative lawsuits against trusts and retirement fund programs. That bill remains pending at the House of Representatives.

According to the Fund, there is mounting political pressure in the House to pass the bill despite the Fund and Marianas Public Land Trust's vigorous opposition. Both agencies fear that if the bill is enacted into law, litigation against their boards will only increase.

"Considering the many uncertainties presented by this unfortunate situation, the Retirement Fund board believes a fiduciary audit is the best, most cost-effective way of protecting the beneficiaries from the mounting and anticipated litigation. These are extraordinary and difficult times," said board chair Sixto Igisomar, adding that the "Board and the Fund will meet these challenges with a vigorous response."

Retirees Mario Taitano, Roman Tudela, and Patricia Guerrero contend in their lawsuit that it was Merrill Lynch's bad investment advice that led to the collapse of the Fund's investments in October 2009. They allege that investment losses amounted to over $150 million since 2008.

Merrill Lynch served the Fund for about 20 years, making about $150,000 a year in service payments. The Fund replaced it last year with Wilshire Associates Inc.

'BOGO' promo on CFLs, elastomeric roof coating

The YCO True Value Hardware in Garapan and YCO Do-It-Best Hardware in Chalan Kiya will be promoting "BOGO" for compact fluorescent lights and elastomeric roof coating on Friday, March 4, 2011, from 9am to 3:30pm. This promotion is open to residential home owners only.

The BOGO is buy one Energy Star compact fluorescent lightbulb and get one free with a limit of five CFL purchases per family. In addition, the Energy Star elastomeric roof coating BOGO is buy one primer Kool Seal and get one elastomeric roof coating free with a limit of two purchases per family. Items are limited so it will be based on first-come, first-served basis.

This promo is being done in collaboration with the Department of Public Works through the Energy Division.

Energy director Thelma Inos encourages everyone to make their home more energy efficient with Energy Star products that can help to reduce high energy bills, improve comfort, and help protect the environment, "Together we can all make a difference."

For questions or information regarding this promotion, contact the Energy Division at telephone nos. 664-4480/1.

This project funding is made possible by grants from the U.S. Department of Energy, State Energy Program through the American Recovery Reinvestment Act of 2009. ***(DPW)***

NOTICE

PLEASE BE ADVISED THAT
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(SARS) – NACC SHOP HAS MOVED TO LOWER BASE (FORMERLY KIM'S AUTO SHOP)

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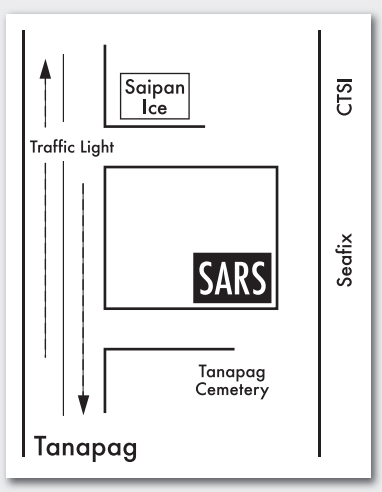
THE MANAGEMENT



FRUSTRATED CARGO RESERVE AUCTION

26 UNITS AIRCONDITIONER
Brand: Liebert/InteleCool/2-5 Ton/50 & 60 Hz.
Type: Indoor/Outdoor Standing A/C Unit

Pre-Auction Inspection: March 5, 2011@10am
Auction Date: March 12, 2011@10am
SSC Terminal Warehouse

SOLD "AS-IS" NO WARRANTY
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SHIPPING SCHEDULE

MARIANA EXPRESS LINES PTE. LTD.

Outbound from Asia	Voyage No.	ETD Jakarta	ETD Bangkok	ETD P. Kelang	ETD Melbourne	ETD Singapore	ETD Hochiminh	ETD Busan	ETD Kobe	ETD Shanghai	ETD Auckland	ETD Manila	ETD Hongkong	ETD Kaoshiung	ETD Naha
MELL SENTOSA	051E	2/19 Sat	2/17 Thu	2/17 Thu	2/15 Tue	2/12 Sat	2/25 Fri	2/21 Mon	2/20 Sun	2/13 Sun	2/13 Sun	2/21 Mon	2/25 Fri	2/27 Sun	3/1 Tue
MELL SPRINGLEAF	017E	2/26 Sat	2/24 Thu	2/24 Thu	2/22 Tue	2/19 Sat	3/4 Fri	2/28 Mon	2/27 Sun	2/20 Sun	2/20 Sun	2/28 Mon	3/4 Fri	3/6 Sun	3/8 Tue
MELL SILOSO	018E	3/5 Sat	3/3 Thu	3/3 Thu	3/1 Tue	2/26 Sat	3/11 Fri	3/7 Mon	3/6 Sun	2/27 Sun	2/27 Sun	3/7 Mon	3/11 Fri	3/13 Sun	3/15 Tue
MELL SENTOSA	052E	3/12 Sat	3/10 Thu	3/10 Thu	3/8 Tue	3/5 Sat	3/18 Fri	3/14 Mon	3/13 Sun	3/6 Sun	3/6 Sun	3/14 Mon	3/18 Fri	3/20 Sun	3/22 Tue
MELL SPRINGLEAF	018E	3/19 Sat	3/17 Thu	3/17 Thu	3/15 Tue	3/12 Sat	3/25 Fri	3/21 Mon	3/20 Sun	3/13 Sun	3/13 Sun	3/21 Mon	3/25 Fri	3/27 Sun	3/29 Tue
MELL SILOSO	019E	3/26 Sat	3/24 Thu	3/24 Thu	3/22 Tue	3/19 Sat	4/1 Fri	3/28 Mon	3/27 Sun	3/20 Sun	3/20 Sun	3/28 Mon	4/1 Fri	4/3 Sun	4/5 Tue

Inbound from Asia	Voyage No.	ETA Guam	ETD Guam	ETA Saipan	ETA Yap	ETA Koror	ETA Davao	ETA GenSan	ETA Cebu	ETA Hongkong	ETA Kaoshiung	ETA Busan	ETA Yokohama	ETA Manila	ETA Singapore
MELL SENTOSA	051E	3/5 Sat	3/6 Sun	3/6 Sun	3/8 Tue	3/9 Wed	3/11 Fri	3/13 Sun	SKIP	3/18 Fri	3/19 Sat	3/24 Thu	4/12 Tue	3/27 Sun	3/23 Wed
MELL SPRINGLEAF	017E	3/12 Sat	3/13 Sun	3/13 Sun	SKIP	3/16 Wed	3/18 Fri	3/20 Sun	SKIP	3/25 Fri	3/26 Sat	3/31 Thu	4/19 Tue	4/3 Sun	3/30 Wed
MELL SILOSO	018E	3/19 Sat	3/20 Sun	3/20 Sun	3/22 Tue	3/23 Wed	3/25 Fri	3/27 Sun	SKIP	4/1 Fri	4/2 Sat	4/7 Thu	4/26 Tue	4/10 Sun	4/6 Wed
MELL SENTOSA	052E	3/26 Sat	3/27 Sun	3/27 Sun	SKIP	3/30 Wed	4/1 Fri	4/3 Sun	SKIP	4/8 Fri	4/9 Sat	4/14 Thu	5/3 Tue	4/17 Sun	4/13 Wed
MELL SPRINGLEAF	018E	4/2 Sat	4/3 Sun	4/3 Sun	4/5 Tue	4/6 Wed	4/8 Fri	4/10 Sun	SKIP	4/15 Fri	4/16 Sat	4/21 Thu	5/10 Tue	4/24 Sun	4/20 Wed
MELL SILOSO	019E	4/9 Sat	4/10 Sun	4/10 Sun	SKIP	4/13 Wed	4/15 Fri	4/17 Sun	SKIP	4/22 Fri	4/23 Sat	4/28 Thu	5/17 Tue	5/1 Sun	4/27 Wed

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Website: www.ctsi-logistics.com

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Inbound/Outbound
Tel. No. (670) 322-1690 ext. 422

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Tel. No. (670) 234-5684
Fax No. (670) 234-5683

Attorneys for Plaintiff
Wells Fargo Financial

IN THE SUPERIOR COURT OF THE COMMONWEALTH OF THE NORTHERN MARIANA ISLANDS

WELLS FARGO FINANCIAL, INC.,	]	**CIVIL ACTION NO.**
Plaintiff,	]	**09 - 0274**
vs.	]	
FRANCISCO A. DELA CRUZ and PRECILLA B DELA CRUZ,	]	**NOTICE OF SALE**
Defendants.	]	

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that, pursuant to the Foreclosure Auction Sale Order, dated February 14, 2011, issued by the Superior Court of the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands, Defendants Francisco A. Dela Cruz and Prescilla B. Dela Cruz' interests in Lot 010 K 64, located in Saipan, CNMI, will be sold at public auction to the highest bidder, on terms and conditions set forth herein below.

Date, Time and Place of Sale. The Sale will be held on Friday, March 4, 2011, at the hour of 10:00 a.m. at the Law Offices of O'Connor Berman Dotts & Banes, Second Floor, Marianas Business Plaza, Susupe, Saipan, Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands. The sale will be open to the general public.

Inspection of Property. The property is described as Lot 010 K 64, as more particularly described on Drawing/Cadastral Plat No. 010 K 01, the original of which was recorded 19 AUG 1987 as Document No. 87-2911 at Commonwealth Recorder's, Saipan. Failure to inspect the property or any portion thereof will not constitute the basis for any claim, adjustment, or rescission of the auction sale. Information concerning the property can be obtained by contacting Francisco Ermitanio of Wells Fargo Financial, Inc. at Tel. No. 235-6044.

Warranties and Covenants. The property listed for sale in this Notice will be sold in its current condition. The sale will be held without any warranties or covenants whatsoever, whether express or implied, including but not limited to warranties of title. Neither the undersigned nor the Plaintiff may give any warranty or covenant express or implied for the property listed for sale in this Notice. Neither the undersigned nor the Plaintiff shall be liable for the quality of the property listed for sale in this Notice, or for any fault or defect in the description thereof. Buyers shall not be entitled to rescission, damages, or any remedy on account thereof.

Conduct of Sale.

A) Rights and Duties of Auctioneer. Consistent with the laws of the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands governing auction sales, the undersigned shall have the following rights and duties in conducting the auction sale: 1) to withdraw the property listed for sale in this Notice before sale or before a bid for such property is accepted; 2) to adjourn the sale without notice at any time before the property is struck off, without incurring any liability whatsoever thereby; and 3) to reject any or all bids for any reason.

B) Bids. Bids may be submitted in advance. The highest of such bids will automatically be considered the opening bid. Advance bids may be submitted only in writing, signed by the bidder, and delivered to the office of O'Connor Berman Dotts & Banes. The bidder assumes all risk. Any person, including the Plaintiff, may bid in person at the auction sale, whether or not such person has submitted an advance bid.

C) Payment. The successful bidder shall pay ten percent (10%) of the purchase price to the undersigned immediately after the sale is consummated. The balance must be paid to Plaintiff, in care of the undersigned, within five (5) calendar days of the sale. If the balance is not paid within five (5) calendar days of the sale, Plaintiff will retain the deposit as liquidated damages and the property may be resubmitted for sale, or sold to the next highest bidder, at Plaintiff's option.

D) Change of Terms and Conditions. The undersigned and the Plaintiff reserve the right to change any of the terms hereof by announcement, written or oral, made before the auction sale or at the commencement thereof and such change or changes, by virtue of this clause, shall be binding on all bidders by constructive notice.

Dated this 15th of February, 2011.

/S/ Gregory J. Koebel
O'Connor Berman Dotts & Banes,
Court-Appointed Auctioneer

GREGORY J. KOEBEL, Esq.
O'Connor Berman Dotts & Banes
Second Floor, Marianas Business Plaza
One Nauru Loop
P.O. Box 501969
Saipan, MP 96950
Tel. No. (670) 234-5684
Fax No. (670) 234-5683

Attorneys for Plaintiff
Wells Fargo Financial

IN THE SUPERIOR COURT OF THE COMMONWEALTH OF THE NORTHERN MARIANA ISLANDS

WELLS FARGO FINANCIAL, INC.,	]	**CIVIL ACTION NO.**
Plaintiff,	]	**10-0133**
vs.	]	
FRANCISCO S. ROSARIO,	]	**NOTICE OF SALE**
Defendant.	]	

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that, pursuant to the Foreclosure Sale Order, dated January 10, 2011, issued by the Superior Court of the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands, Defendant Francisco S. Rosario' interests in Lot 005 I 513, located in Saipan, CNMI, will be sold at public auction to the highest bidder, on terms and conditions set forth herein below.

Date, Time and Place of Sale. The Sale will be held on Friday, March 4, 2011, at the hour of 10:00 a.m. at the Law Offices of O'Connor Berman Dotts & Banes, Second Floor, Marianas Business Plaza, Susupe, Saipan, Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands. The sale will be open to the general public.

Inspection of Property. The property is described as Lot 005 I 513, as more particularly described on Drawing/Cadastral Plat No. 2084/92, the original of which was recorded 14 MAY 1982 as Document No. 14232 at Commonwealth Recorder's, Saipan. Failure to inspect the property or any portion thereof will not constitute the basis for any claim, adjustment, or rescission of the auction sale. Information concerning the property can be obtained by contacting Francisco Ermitanio of Wells Fargo Financial, Inc. at Tel. No. 235-6044.

Warranties and Covenants. The property listed for sale in this Notice will be sold in its current condition. The sale will be held without any warranties or covenants whatsoever, whether express or implied, including but not limited to warranties of title. Neither the undersigned nor the Plaintiff may give any warranty or covenant express or implied for the property listed for sale in this Notice. Neither the undersigned nor the Plaintiff shall be liable for the quality of the property listed for sale in this Notice, or for any fault or defect in the description thereof. Buyers shall not be entitled to rescission, damages, or any remedy on account thereof.

Conduct of Sale.

A) Rights and Duties of Auctioneer. Consistent with the laws of the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands governing auction sales, the undersigned shall have the following rights and duties in conducting the auction sale: 1) to withdraw the property listed for sale in this Notice before sale or before a bid for such property is accepted; 2) to adjourn the sale without notice at any time before the property is struck off, without incurring any liability whatsoever thereby; and 3) to reject any or all bids for any reason.

B) Bids. Bids may be submitted in advance. The highest of such bids will automatically be considered the opening bid. Advance bids may be submitted only in writing, signed by the bidder, and delivered to the office of O'Connor Berman Dotts & Banes. The bidder assumes all risk. Any person, including the Plaintiff, may bid in person at the auction sale, whether or not such person has submitted an advance bid.

C) Payment. The successful bidder shall pay ten percent (10%) of the purchase price to the undersigned immediately after the sale is consummated. The balance must be paid to Plaintiff, in care of the undersigned, within five (5) calendar days of the sale. If the balance is not paid within five (5) calendar days of the sale, Plaintiff will retain the deposit as liquidated damages and the property may be resubmitted for sale, or sold to the next highest bidder, at Plaintiff's option.

D) Change of Terms and Conditions. The undersigned and the Plaintiff reserve the right to change any of the terms hereof by announcement, written or oral, made before the auction sale or at the commencement thereof and such change or changes, by virtue of this clause, shall be binding on all bidders by constructive notice.

Dated this 15th of February, 2011.

/S/ Gregory J. Koebel
O'Connor Berman Dotts & Banes,
Court-Appointed Auctioneer

COMMUNITY BRIEFS

Judges wanted for thespian contest

Judges are needed to help with tonight's thespian competition. Judges are asked to please report to the Marianas High School, Room 101D by 5:30pm. The events should be over by 8 pm. Your help will be greatly appreciated. Come and help nurture Saipan's youthful thespian talent. ***(PR)***

Managaha beach gets red flag

The Division of Environment Quality has red-flagged Managaha and is advising the public not to fish or swim within 300 feet of this location for the next 48 hours or until otherwise notified. DEQ said that samples collected from these locations had excessive concentrations of fecal indicator bacteria (enterococci) that exceeded the CNMI Marine Water Quality Standards. These bacteria can indicate the presence of human and animal waste in the water. Water samples were taken from 11 locations on Managaha this Wednesday. For more information, contact DEQ at 664-8500. ***(DEQ)***

NMC campuses closed on Friday for workshop

All NMC employees will be participating in an accreditation workshop from 12:30pm to 4:30pm on Friday, March 4, 2011. All classes scheduled between 12:30pm and 5pm on this day have been canceled (except for classes that only meet once a week on Fridays). All NMC offices will also be closed during that time. The college apologizes for any inconvenience caused. ***(NMC)***

CPA officials at Chamber meeting today

The Saipan Chamber of Commerce will have its monthly general membership meeting today, March 2, at Fiesta Resort & Spa's Azucena Room. Edward M. Deleon Guerrero, executive director of the Commonwealth Ports Authority, and MaryAnn Q. Lizama, port manager and harbor mistress, are the guest speakers. Chamber members will also welcome incoming executive director Richard Pierce. Registration and lunch will begin at 11:30am, and the meeting will begin at noon. The meeting is $15 for members, $20 for guests of members, and $25 for the public. ***(SCC)***

GES to host parent summit Saturday

This Saturday, March 5, 2011, Garapan Elementary School will be hosting a parent summit. All parents of GES students are encouraged to participate. The summit will consist of five workshops: Frequently Asked Questions from previous parent summits, Scream-free Parenting, Megaskills for parents, Standard and Benchmark Report Cards, T Goals, and GES Accreditation. Sign-in starts at 7:30am, the workshops begin at 8am, and will go until 12pm. Each workshop will last approximately 40 minutes. Parents who complete the summit will receive a certificate. There will also be food available for participants. ***(PR)***

PSS accreditation on John Gonzales LIVE

PSS accreditation will be the topic on John Gonzales LIVE this Wednesday with Lynette L. Villagomez, PSS T&FASIG program coordinator; Vanessa Hocog, principal of Sinapalo Elementary School; and Glenn Muna, principal of Oleai Elementary School as guests.

John Gonzales Live airs Wednesday and rebroadcasts on Sunday and Monday, all from 7pm to 8 pm on KSPN Ch. 2 The show also rebroadcasts worldwide on BetelNut Radio (www.betelnutradio.com) on Wednesday, March 9, 2011, at 6pm Pacific Standard Time and 9pm Eastern Standard Time (Thursday, March 10, 2011, at 12 noon Chamorro Standard Time in the CNMI and Guam).

Viewers can participate by calling (287-4230), texting (285-META) (6382), or emailing (johngonzales@pticom.com). ***(PR)***

Early dismissal and progress report notice

Kagman High School has scheduled the release of progress reports for the third quarter on Thursday, March 3, 2011, from 4:30pm to 6pm. Students will be released at 12pm. For more information, call the KHS office at 237-3840. ***(PR)***

DEQ cleanup brigade sets Saturday cleanup

The Division of Environmental Quality's monthly cleanup brigade will be picking up trash at Pau Pau Beach in San Roque on Saturday, March 5, 2011. If you would like to volunteer, meet the DEQ representative on Saturday at 8am in the parking lot. Volunteers will split into groups and clean east and west until 10am, break for drinks, and then continue, if needed.

This month, outstanding brigade volunteers who participated in at least 10 monthly cleanups will get a brigade cap and those who took part in at least three cleanups will get a green brigade t-shirt. For more information about volunteering, contact the DEQ office at 664-8500/1. ***(DEQ)***

Oleai school sets PTSA meeting

The PTSA officers of Oleai Elementary School would like to inform the parents and guardians of OES that there will be a PTSA meeting on Tuesday, March 8, 2011, at 6pm in the school cafeteria. Everyone is encouraged to attend. ***(PR)***

SSHS to issue mid-progress reports

To all parents and legal guardians of Saipan Southern High School students: Term 3 mid-progress report distribution is scheduled to be picked up on Thursday, March 3, 2011 from 3pm to 6pm. Teachers will be available in their classrooms for parents and legal guardians visit. All students will be released at 1pm. ***(PR)***

Flashback

A LOOK BACK AT PAST YEARS' HEADLINES

Mar. 2, 1999

PSS aims for a higher budget in 2000

The Public School System will submit a budget proposal for year 2000 that will allow schools to fill in teaching vacancies, purchase books, and operational cost for DanDan, Kagman and Sinapalu schools. This entire budget package is estimated to go over $40 million and will register a huge deficit from what the Office of Management and Budget had earlier instructed PSS to stay within the $37.7 million appropriation for next year. In a motion approved by the Fiscal and Budget committee, members of the Board of Education asked Commissioner of Education Dr. Rita H. Inos to revise the PSS budget prepared by acting Fiscal and Budget Officer William Matson and reflect the additional cost on personnel, books and to operate the new schools.

New landfill may double waste disposal cost

It cost the CNMI government $15 to $20 a ton to manage Puerto Rico Dump. When the new landfill is built in Marpi, it will cost the administration $40 to $50 a ton to maintain the new facility. Due to increasing cost of solid waste management, there is a very strong need to teach the people the value of recycling. Educating the people on the need to recycle their waste should be done simultaneously with the establishment of a Marpi landfill, said John Harder, solid waste manager. Harder who has worked in Hawaii helping officials develop a comprehensive solid was management plan for 10 years, said the CNMI can learn a lot from Hawaii in terms of how it solved its waste problem.

Mar. 2, 2000

Govt eyes fishing and farming co-op

The CNMI government is eyeing the possibility of establishing a fishing and farming cooperative, a move seen to revitalize the islands' agriculture sector amid dramatic slowdown in garment manufacturing and tourism industries. The plan is part of the government's intensified efforts to minimize the Commonwealth economy's heavy reliance on only two major business activities, which are both vulnerable to impacts from external forces. The cooperative is expected to alleviate the difficulties faced by local farmers and fishers in marketing their daily harvest and catch. It will also allow easy access by CNMI consumers to fresh agricultural produce.

Aircraft landing at Saipan airport down by 19%

Aircraft traffic at the Saipan International Airport continues to see major reduction although the number of people disembarking at the island's air transport facility slightly edged up during the first month of the year. Airport officials attribute the ironic increase in deplanement figures despite sharp reduction in the number of aircraft landings to the Commonwealth Ports Authority's airline incentive program, which encouraged foreign carriers to upgrade seating capacity. Records obtained from the ports authority indicated fruitful results from the incentive program granting 50 percent reduction in arrival and departure fees to CNMI signatory airlines which are able to bring up their arrival figures by 15 percent from their current traffic load.

Mar. 2, 2001

$100K to fund tourism promotions in Taiwan

The CNMI government is bent at releasing $100,000 to finance additional promotional activities that would establish Saipan as a prime tour destination among Taiwanese travelers. Ports Authority Executive Director Carlos H. Salas disclosed Mandarin Air had specifically asked for government support in increased promotion of the CNMI in Taiwan to justify direct flights between Saipan and Taipei. Mr. Salas said Mandarin Air executives made this request known to the CNMI government during meeting last month with Northern Marianas officials headed by Gov. Pedro P. Tenorio.

Senators claim LaMotte violate hiring policies

Senators yesterday castigated former Public Auditor Leo LaMotte's renewal of non-expiring contracts of OPA employees and decried them as a possible circumvention of the law. The issue stems from Mr. LaMotte's signing of contract extension to OPA employees shortly before he stepped down in December 2000. Some contracts at the time, from what current Public Auditor Michael Sablan said, were not even nine months old. Lawmakers found the contract renewals of the former Public Auditor disturbing and irregular.

Inos: Most budget requests show 9- to 10-percent drop

»Payroll today for non-critical government employees

By HAIDEE V. EUGENIO
haidee_eugenio@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

Acting governor Eloy S. Inos said yesterday that most government agencies submitted proposed budgets that are 9 percent to 10 percent lower than their current budget, to be able to live within the projected $120 million budget for fiscal year 2012.

The fiscal year 2012 estimated budget is a $12 million drop from $132 million in fiscal year 2011.

Inos said government agencies were able to beat the Feb. 28 deadline to submit their 2012 budget plan to the Fitial administration.

The acting governor, who also oversees government finances, said only a few submitted budget proposals that are higher than their current budgets, including the Public School System, which requests $36 million, up from $30 million.

He said after a review of the budget submissions, agencies will then be called for budget hearings with the administration. After the hearings, the numbers will then be reviewed again.

The Fitial administration has until April 1 to submit its fiscal year 2012 budget to the Legislature.

At the same time, Inos said yesterday that non-critical government employees who did not receive their paychecks last week will receive them today.

Inos said cash collections have remained low but they were able to come up just enough to complete the payroll.

The government needs to come up with some $4 million every two weeks to meet payroll.

Only critical government employees received their paychecks on time on Thursday last week. These included doctors, nurses, police officers, firefighters and corrections officers.

Also receiving their paychecks timely are federal funded employees and those at the Public School System.

This has not been the case for non-critical service employees who have seen delayed payrolls for at least 10 times since June 2010.

Most of those affected by delayed payroll are also subject to a 16-hour cut per payroll and unpaid holidays in fiscal year 2011.

NMC-CREES plant pathologist gets prestigious award

NMC

Northern Marianas College Cooperative Research, Extension and Education Service plant pathologist Dr. Dilip Nandwani, fourth from left, and NMC interim president Lorraine T. Cabrera, third from left, pose for a group photo with members of the NMC-CREES Crop Improvement team to present Nandwani's publication "Banana Guide in the CNMI" an award. Nandwani recently received the Blue Ribbon Extension Communications Award at the annual American Society for Horticultural Science meeting in Texas for his publication.

Plant pathologist Dr. Dilip Nandwani of the Northern Marianas College Cooperative Research, Extension and Education Service was recently awarded the Blue Ribbon Extension Communications Award at the annual American Society for Horticultural Science meeting hosted in Corpus Christi, Texas.

The prestigious award recognizes outstanding contributions of those who have reported on horticultural subjects using different forms of media. The ASHS was founded in 1903 and is composed of scientists dedicated to the advancement of horticultural research, education and application. Nandwani has been a member of the American Society for Horticultural Science since 2008.

Nandwani, who attended the annual ASHS meeting in early February, received the award for his publication "Banana Guide for the CNMI." The publication features local varieties of banana, crop propagation and care, as well as production issues in the CNMI.

""The Blue Ribbon is a testament to the NMC-CREES team's accomplishments and dedication to further advance agriculture to benefit the people in the CNMI," said NMC-CREES director Ross Manglona. "We will work hard to continue to improve and enhance NMC-CREES efforts in assisting the community with their agricultural concerns."

Nandwani and the NMC-CREES Crop Production team began promoting growing banana varieties in the CNMI by inviting members in the community, especially local, farmers to view banana crops and learn about the different aspects of growing bananas. Tasting of the bananas produces and the production of the "Banana Guide in the CNMI" soon followed.

"I would like to thank the NMC-CREES Crop Production team for their collaborative efforts to produce the 'Banana Guide in the CNMI,' and Outreach Coordinator for designing the publication," said Nandwani. "I would also like to thank the whole NMC-CREES Administration for their help with our community outreach events."

Copies of the award winning publication "The Banana Guide in the CNMI" are available at the NMC-CREES main office in Building F at NMC Campus in As Terlaje. ***(NMC)***

OAG wants out from Atalig-Tinian mayor battle

By FERDIE DELA TORRE
ferdie_delatorre@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

The Office of the Attorney General wants to withdraw as counsel for Tinian Mayor Raymond M. Dela Cruz in the lawsuit filed by former Coastal Resources Management Office director Felipe Q. Atalig.

Assistant attorney general Craig Dittrich said the OAG has not found a prior instance in which the OAG has defended a municipality or its mayor in a civil action.

"To force the OAG to continue to represent the mayor and treasurer of Tinian in this action would be akin to forcing the attorney general of the state of California to represent the mayor of Los Angeles," Dittrich said in the motion to withdraw.

He said OAG does not possess the constitutional or statutory authority to represent Dela Cruz and his co-defendants in this case.

The OAG is only authorized to represent the governor and the executive agencies and instrumentalities of the government, and the Commonwealth itself, Dittrich said.

"The mayors' offices are not agencies of the Executive Branch of the central government," he said.

Atalig is suing Dela Cruz and acting Tinian Municipal treasurer Allen M. Perez for allegedly failing to respond to two Open Government Act requests.

Dela Cruz had asked the OAG to represent them in the case. He, however, retained attorney Robert T. Torres to represent him on an interim basis.

The OAG first agreed to provide limited representation but on Jan. 13, 2011, Attorney General Edward Buckingham notified the mayor that the OAG would be withdrawing.

On Feb. 2, 2011, Dela Cruz and co-defendant faxed a letter to the OAG insisting on continued representation. This prompted the OAG to file the motion to withdraw.

MICHAEL A. WHITE, ESQ. F0122
THE LAW OFFICES OF MICHAEL A. WHITE, LLC.
POST OFFICE BOX 5222
SAIPAN, MARIANA ISLANDS 96950
TEL: (670) 234-6547
FAX: (670) 234-9537

ATTORNEYS FOR Plaintiff

IN THE SUPERIOR COURT OF THE COMMONWEALTH OF THE NORTHERN MARIANA ISLANDS

JAVILI GENERAL PARTNERSHIP, Plaintiff -v- **GUANG L. JIN,** Defendants.	**CIVIL ACTION NO. 10-0282**

SUMMONS FOR PUBLICATION

YOU ARE HEREBY SUMMONED and notified to file any answer you wish to make to the Complaint, a copy of which is served upon you hereby, within twenty (20) days after the fourth publication of this Summons, and to deliver or mail a copy of our answer to the LAW OFFICES OF MICHAEL A. WHITE, LLC, the Plaintiff's attorneys, whose address is Post Office Box 5222, Saipan, MP 96950, as soon as practicable after filing your answer or sending it to the Clerk of Courts for filing.

Your answer should be in writing and filed with the Clerk of this Court at Susupe, Saipan, It may be prepared and signed for you by your counsel and sent to the Clerk of this Court by messenger or mail. It is not necessary for you to appear personally until further notice.

If you fail to answer in accordance with this Summons, judgment by default may be taken against you for the relief demanded in the Complaint.

By order of the above Court:

/s/ Clerk of Court

Dated this 16th day of FEBRUARY. 2011.

Name: JENNETH J. NOGOY
Address: P.O. Box 501579, Saipan MP 96950
Phone: (670) 235-5004

pro-se,

IN THE SUPERIOR COURT OF THE COMMONWEALTH OF THE NORTHERN MARIANA ISLANDS

JENNETH JIMENEZ-NOGOY Petitioner vs. JOSE RJAY MEDINA NOGOY Respondent,	FCD-DI-CIVIL ACTION NO. 10-0518 **SUMMONS**

TO: **JOSE RJAY MEDINA NOGOY**

YOU ARE HEREBY SUMMONED and notified to file any answer you wish to make to the Complaint, a copy of which is given to you herewith, within twenty (20) days after service of the Summons upon you, and to delivery or mail a copy of your answer to JENNETH J. NOGOY whose address is P.O. Box 501579, Saipan, MP 96950 as soon as practical after filing your answer or sending it to the Clerk of Courts for filing.

Your answer should be in writing and filed with the Clerk of Court at Susupe, Saipan MP 96950. It may be prepared for you by your counsel and sent to the Clerk of this Court by messenger or Mail. It is not necessary for you to appear personally until further notice. If you fail to file and answer in accordance with this summons, judgment by default may be taken against you for relief in the complaint.

Dated this 4th day of October, 2011.

/s/ Deputy Clerk of Court

IN THE SUPERIOR COURT OF THE COMMONWEALTH OF THE NORTHERN MARIANA ISLANDS

NORTHERN MARIANAS HOUSING CORPORATION, Plaintiff, -v- **GENEVIEVE LUANNE S. FITIAL and FRANCISCA S. FITIAL,** Defendants.	**CIVIL ACTION NO. 09-0185** **FIRST AMENDED NOTICE OF SALE**

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that, pursuant to an Order issued by the Court in this matter on February 25, 2010, I will sell, at public auction, to the highest bidder, on the terms and conditions set forth hereinbelow, all of the right, title, and interest of Defendant in and to the following property: Lot No. 019 J 80, situated in Dandan, Saipan, Northern Mariana Islands, containing an area of 925 square meters, more or less, as shown on DLS Check No. 019 J 15, dated November 12, 2003, Commonwealth Recorder's File No. 03-2501, the description therein being incorporated herein by reference.

Date, Time, and Place of Sale. The sale will be held on Friday, March 4, 2011, at the hour of 1:30 pm, at The Law Offices of Michael A. White, LLC, Joeten Center, Susupe, Saipan, Northern Mariana Islands. The sale will be open to the general public.

Terms and Conditions of Sale. The Terms and Conditions of Sale may be obtained from the undersigned, either prior to or at the sale. These terms and conditions shall govern the conduct of the sale.

DATED, this 2nd day of February, 2011:

/s/ MICHAEL A. WHITE, Auctioneer

COMMONWEALTH PORTS AUTHORITY
Main Office: SAIPAN INTERNATIONAL AIRPORT
P.O. BOX 501055, SAIPAN, MP 96950-1055 • Phone: (670) 237-6500/1 • Fax: (670) 234-5962
E-Mail Address: cpa.admin@pticom.com • Website: www.cpa.gov.mp

INVITATION FOR BID
CPA-IFB-11-01
"SALE OF CPA VEHICLES AND EQUIPMENT"

The location of the vehicles and equipment is at the Saipan International Airport.

The Commonwealth Ports Authority is soliciting competitive sealed bids from individuals or firms interested in buying CPA vehicles and equipment. The list of vehicles and equipment will be available for pick up at the Saipan International Airport, administration office on the 2nd floor of the arrival terminal starting February 17, 2011 during regular working hours. The closing date of this bid is March 11, 2011 at 2:00 pm. All bids must be in a sealed enveloped marked CPA-IFB-11-01.

The individual or firm submitting the highest bid for any or all the vehicles or equipment on the list must make full payment within five (5) working days from the date of notification. Payment must be made to the Commonwealth Ports Authority. All vehicles and equipment are sold "AS IS" and "WHERE IS" and WITHOUT WARRANTY. All sold properties must be removed from CPA property within 72 hours from the date of payment. CPA will not be responsible for said property after the specified timeframe.

All items listed may be viewed at the location indicated on the listing. Inquiries may be directed to the Operations Supervisor, Mr. John Tudela, at telephone number 237-6500.

/S/ EDWARD M. DELEON GUERRERO
Executive Director

Date: 02/16/2011

PROCUREMENT AND SUPPLY
CNMI GOVERNMENT

INVITATION FOR BID
IFB-NMC-052

SUBMISSION DATE: MARCH 15, 2011 • TIME: 10:00 A.M.

"PURCHASE OF THIRTY (30) LAPTOP COMPUTERS SONY VAIO SR SERIES, FIFTEEN (15) APPLE MACBOOKS 13" AND FIVE (5) APPLE MACBOOKS PRO 17" FOR THE NORTHERN MARIANAS COLLEGE"

BID PACKETS ARE MADE AVAILABLE AT THE OFFICE OF THE CNMI ARRA STATE LEAD, LOCATED IN THE MARIANAS BUSINESS PLAZE, THIRD FLOOR, OFFICE #315 OR REQUESTED VIA E-MAIL TO nmc_fac_laptop@recovery.gov.mp.

ALL QUESTIONS REGARDING THIS PROJECT SHOULD BE SUBMITTED ELECTRONICALLY VIA E-MAIL TO **alfreda.camacho@recovery.gov.mp** NO LATER THAN CLOSE OF BUSINESS **MARCH 04, 2011**.

THIS IS A FEDERALLY FUNDED PROJECT; AS SUCH, LOCAL PREFERENCE IS NOT AVAILABLE, BECAUSE ITS USE IS PROHIBITED BY FEDERAL LAW GRANTING FUNDING FOR THIS PROJECT.

/s/ **MICHAEL J. ADA** CNMI ARRA STATE LEAD
/s/ **LORRAINE T. CABRERA** INTERIM PRESIDENT, NMC
/s/ **HERMAN S. SABLAN** DIRECTOR, P&S

PROCUREMENT AND SUPPLY
CNMI GOVERNMENT

REQUEST FOR PROPOSAL
RFP-NMC-048

SUBMISSION DATE: MARCH 17, 2011 • TIME: 2:00 P.M.

"SUPPLY, INSTALLATION AND CONNECTION OF INTEGRATED LIBRARY SYSTEM FOR THE NORTHERN MARIANAS COLLEGE"

PROPOSAL PACKETS ARE MADE AVAILABLE AT THE OFFICE OF THE CNMI ARRA STATE LEAD, LOCATED IN THE MARIANAS BUSINESS PLAZE, THIRD FLOOR, OFFICE #315 OR REQUESTED VIA E-MAIL TO nmc_ils@recovery.gov.mp.

A **MANDATORY PRE-PROPOSAL CONFERENCE** WILL BE HELD ON **MARCH 04, 2011 AT 10:00 A.M.** IN THE NMC PROCUREMENT PROPERTY MANAGEMENT OFFICE CONFERENCE ROOM ON THE 2ND FLOOR, BUILDING L.

THIS IS A FEDERALLY FUNDED PROJECT; AS SUCH, LOCAL PREFERENCE IS NOT AVAILABLE, BECAUSE ITS USE IS PROHIBITED BY FEDERAL LAW GRANTING FUNDING FOR THIS PROJECT.

/s/ **MICHAEL J. ADA** CNMI ARRA STATE LEAD
/s/ **LORRAINE T. CABRERA** INTERIM PRESIDENT, NMC
/s/ **HERMAN S. SABLAN** DIRECTOR, P&S

Opinion

Hafa Adai!
Saipan Tribune
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Jayvee L. Vallejera EDITOR
Mark Rabago ASSOCIATE EDITOR

MEMBER

The Associated Press | Pacific Islands News Association

EDITORIAL

Some backbone at the UN

(c) 2011, Los Angeles Times

Something odd happened Friday in Geneva: The United Nations Human Rights Council, derided by conservatives and liberal human rights advocates alike as a toothless and sometimes hypocritical organ, actually did the right thing. For the first time ever, it voted to expel one of its members for committing atrocities.

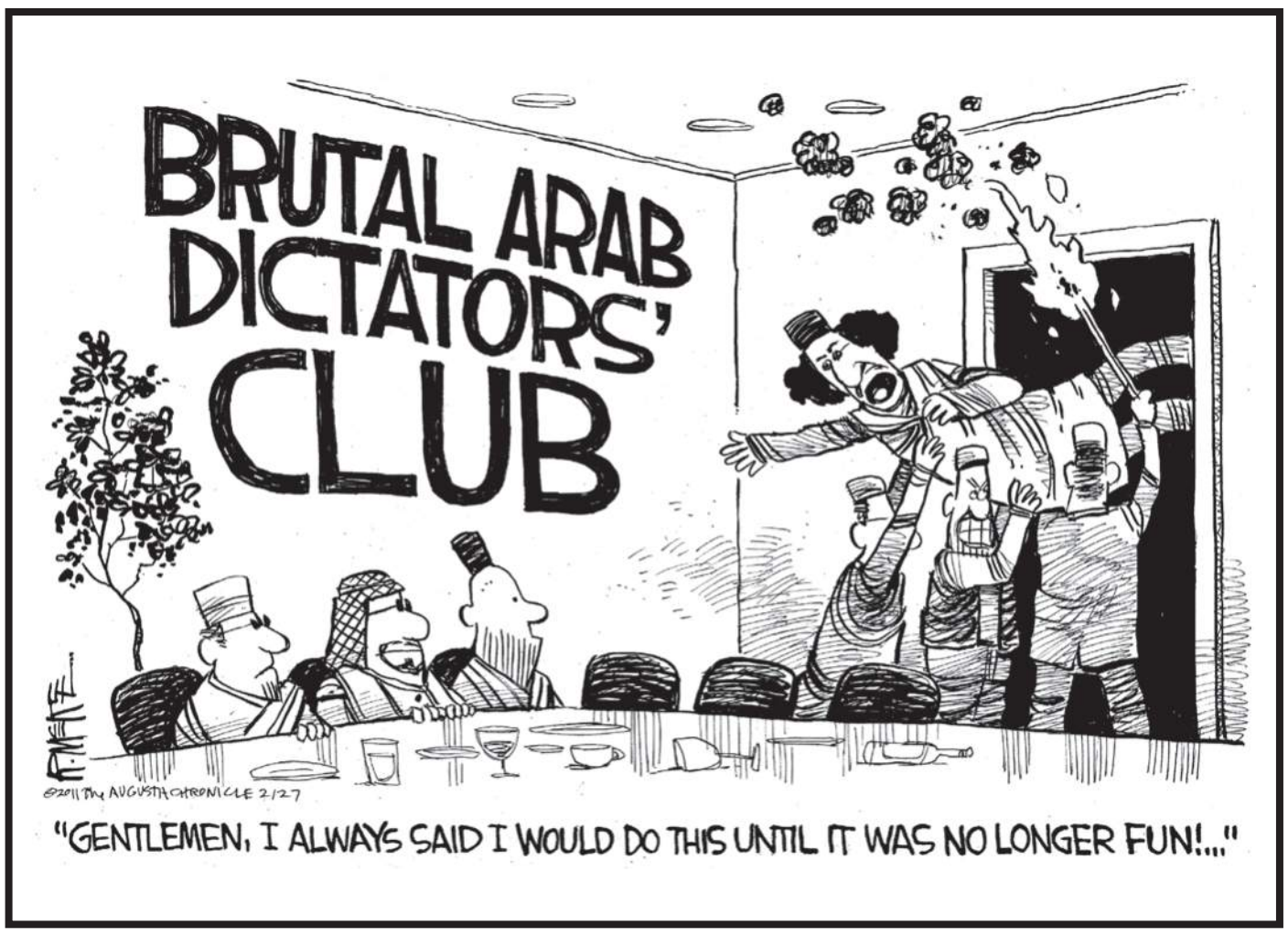
That member was Libya, whose tyrannical leader, Moammar Gadhafi, has reportedly ordered soldiers and armed mercenaries to slaughter those protesting his regime. The decision on Libya's suspension now goes to the General Assembly. Regardless of what happens next, the unanimous vote by the much-maligned Human Rights Council is a sign that it might be more worthwhile than its critics suppose.

The current council was created in 2006 to replace the widely discredited Human Rights Commission, a farcical organization whose 53 members included some of the worst human rights abusers in the world; as then-U.N. Secretary-General Kofi Annan observed, countries sought membership "not to strengthen human rights but to protect themselves against criticism or to criticize others." Not satisfied with the reforms, the George W. Bush administration withdrew from the council, but the Obama administration rejoined in 2009.

We thought that was the right decision, but not because we had any illusions about the council's agenda or effectiveness. It was still a bastion of bad behavior, stacked with repressive regimes such as Libya, Cuba, Saudi Arabia and China. Just like the old commission, it continued to focus on perceived abuses by Israel against Palestinians while taking little action elsewhere. But we believed the U.S. could have more influence over the building of a better council by working within it than from without. And, in fact, over the last four years it has become clear that the council does represent an improvement over the old commission, if not as big an improvement as we'd like.

Perhaps its most valuable contribution is the "universal periodic review," in which the human rights records of all 192 U.N. member states are opened to scrutiny. The council has little power to follow up on these reviews or to take much action, but shining a spotlight on repression does embarrass dictatorial regimes and in some cases has prompted changes. Following its review, Saudi Arabia promised to abolish the guardianship system, in which male permission is required for women to work, study, marry, travel or use public services, and to end the death penalty for juveniles.

By voting to expel Libya, the council has demonstrated that it is capable of fulfilling its mandate to suspend countries that commit "gross and systematic violations of human rights." Obviously, we would have been happier if Libya had never been allowed to join. But when it comes to improving U.N. institutions, it's all about baby steps.


BRUTAL ARAB DICTATORS' CLUB
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"GENTLEMEN, I ALWAYS SAID I WOULD DO THIS UNTIL IT WAS NO LONGER FUN!..."

La Sociedad en Maynilad

By JAIME VERGARA
Special to the Saipan Tribune

Vergara is a regular contributor to the Saipan Tribune*'s Opinion Section*

Philippine history buffs will recognize in our title the blatant allusion to *La Solidaridad*, the nationalists' publication started by the prolific writer and scholar Jose P. Rizal. It mixes the Malay word from which the city of Manila is derived with the Spanish word for people or society, if only to claim that we had moved further.

The head busts of Ninoy, Cory, and Noynoy Aquino were prominently displayed in most publications in the Philippines this past Friday, the national holiday commemorating the People Power of '86. An irreverent wit dubbed it the "Father, Son, and Cory Spirit." Given the religious metaphor widely utilized in describing the events of February '86 Manila (thanks to the SJs), the triune ID is humorously appropriate. Ninoy did hitch his vocation to a messianic role of saving the Philippines, and the presidency of Cory was immaculately conceived, betrayed, and crucified by military putsches and patronizing media machismo, but to his credit, Benigno III might have actually learned his lesson. Instead of positioning his role along the lines of Christos, he is more inclined to lift the communal responsibility of the Many rather than the charism of the One.

"People Power" has been more on the power than the people and this is no accident. Aguinaldo at the turn of the century had no more chance of unifying a nation when he appointed himself the country's dictator, much to the chagrin of plebeian Apolinario Mabini, who immediately advised a change to the presidential role.

Autocracy, the hallmark of Spanish aristocracy, and monastic arrogance, might have segued into oligarchy but no further. To trace names in elected executive offices and membership in the legislature beginning 1907 will show how little we have expanded the ranks of those who shape national policies. Even the Marcoses (Imelda, Bong, and Imee) remain electable because the Philippines has yet to be unified; pockets of power assert their influence as clans and splintered *kabayans* sustain their own oligarchic loyalties.

If Noynoy transcends the cult of heightened self-esteem that obsessed many of his predecessors, awaken individual creativity and communal effectivity, *La Sociedad* may just survive its own contradictions.

One is its relationship to real estate. The Philippines can use a real land reform. Land ownership in the Marianas does, too. Makati assures the wealth of the Zobels and the Ayalas through the inordinate value of square footage determined by occupancy of head offices of commerce and industry. With digitized dBs, it is possible now to spread out the concentration of financial districts from the stifling rates of Wall Streets and Loops, Ginzas and Bunds, Makatis and Seville Rows; instead, a network of decentralized MOs may include the beauty of lakes and rivers, mountains and shores, where workers' productivity is measured alongside the happiness index. With the PSS laptops, the NMI stands a chance of heightened clickability skills, if we set our minds to it. Dreaming is free; the *La Solidaridad* demonstrated it well. It would be foolish to stop now.

Two events occupy the *Pinoy* psyche. The first is General Angelo Reyes' salvage of integrity by suicide. While in Majuro, we heard the first homicide compared to the record of folks inflicting pain on themselves rather than inflict pain on others. An admirable trait but suicide often hide rather than face the truth.

Truth now stares the Filipino in the face in the second event: three drug couriers to die before China's unforgiving drug laws. The call for mercy for humanitarian reason that VP Binay brought to Beijing delayed the execution of the verdict, but to understand the gravity of the bigger picture, we must face the stark reality that 270 Filipinos are in Chinese jails for drug-related offenses, and no less than Congressman Singson of Ilocos Sur is serving an 18-month sentence in Hong Kong for drug possession.

One of the three condemned felons is a confessed user. In our brief sojourn to a low-income neighborhood in Parañaque, we learned of the extensive encroachment of drugs on the urban poor (that is not so dissimilar with what has happened in the Marianas), a tragedy that bedevils any effort to reform the society. Thus, piecemeal efforts like the control of drugs without the more urgent demand of equitable and broader distribution of wealth will not do. Land ownership in Pea Eye, and the Marianas, need to be rethought.

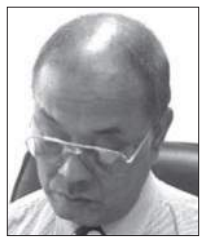
Obama asked Congress to upgrade the nation's rail system. What if Noynoy follows suit, initiate plans to have his administration lay out rail lines from Manila to Ilocos, Cagayan Valley, Bicol and Batangas, with similar networks of rail and ferries that ties Mindanao, Visayas, and Luzon; forsake continuing dependence on oil, and make a turn to maximize usage as we accelerate search for alternative energy sources in wind, water and sun?

What if the 12 million Pinoys who live outside of sovereign territory pursue solidarity in the archipelago by ensuring that the expenditure of remittances do not build unoccupied dwellings with plastic covered furniture in their honor awaiting their return? Lolo Jose dreamed and paid dearly for it. Ferdinand dreamed but mistook individual charism for power, could not leave his overdeveloped self-esteem behind. Ninoy's intent may have been laudable but General Ver thought his self-confidence was gravely misplaced.

Let's hope Noynoy knows how to dream. More importantly, the rest of the 92 million of us dare dream wildly as well. The Pinoy expats in diaspora, with their clickability skills honed, may take the lead.

EDITORIAL POLICY The *Saipan Tribune* welcomes comments on any article, column, editorial, or topic that may be of interest to the public. Letters to the editor must include the name, address, and contact number of the contributor. Letters that are critical in nature should focus on issues, not personalities. Contributions consisting of 500 words or less have more chances of getting published. The *Saipan Tribune* reserves the right to publish a contribution or not; the right to edit submissions for length, accuracy, and clarity; and the right to publish and distribute contributions in print, electronic, or other media formats. Submissions may be sent via snail mail to the 2nd Floor, JP Center, Beach Road, Garapan, Saipan, 96950; fax (670) 235-3740; e-mail to editor@saipantribune.com; or through our website at www.saipantribune.com.

Loss of cultural ties to land



By JOHN S. DELROSARIO JR.
Special to the Saipan Tribune

DelRosario is a regular contributor to the Saipan Tribune*'s Opinion Section.*

For centuries, the traditional way of life on these isles was farming and fishing. Farming has been the chief means of local food gathering that has a direct relationship with indigenous land being the foundation of our traditional way of life. In fact, most families were still farming their land well into the late '60s and early '70s.

I raise this issue to promote discussion on claims that land is cultural and how that claim has slowly hollowed out or disappeared through the years. Indeed, we've moved from a subsistence lifestyle to one of a money economy.

This was the swiftest shift in the economic landscape that changed our way of life permanently. We've since never returned to our cultural ties with our land. There was the slow but sure disintegration of our cultural ties to the land. Land became a commodity for families to dispose of based on needs.

This shift is the most profound change in what was our traditional lifestyle. Shortly after the hostilities, our parents started working for the Naval Administration. They learned a trade in auto-mechanic, plumbing, carpentry, nurses' aides, teachers, clerks, and police officers, among others.

The indigenous folks learned that there's an easier way to earn a living by working for the NTTU. This was the biggest shift in our lifestyle. Thus, we moved away from our traditional way of life. In the process, we stripped ourselves of the strong ties we once had with our land (traditional farming) by collecting paychecks every two weeks.

Our subsistence lifestyle devolved into a money economy. In other words, rather than farming the land the indigenous people either leased or sold their properties. It became a commodity!

The net effect of these leases (private and public) is the immediate denial of its use by NMDs for residential of business purposes. It effectively displaced future generations from benefiting directly from the use of such land. Most would have become senior citizens before leased land are opened for indigenous use upon expiration. These changes have drained the posturing that land is cultural. It isn't any longer!

More swift & powerful changes

A stronger wave of change took place here in the mid-'80s when landowners leased their land and collected millions of dollars from rent. Before then, there was war claims compensation, then came land compensation, and federal programs from housing to food stamps, among other major changes. They moved the indigenous people further away from traditional use of their land.

These swift and powerful shifts changed our cultural ties to the land forever. It isn't bad, though, I wish to note that the changes were of such magnitude that we eventually treated our properties as just another commodity. Didn't we use this argument against statesiders as a feel good mouthwash in support of land alienation?

Swift and powerful changes, including the establishment of casinos on Tinian and Rota only solidifies a move away from our close ties with the land. Thus, the argument of land alienation or Article XII serving as a foundation to protect the local culture would have worked during our ancestral days but not in contemporary Northern Marianas.

The fear of exploitation from without eventually changed to exploitation from within. For instance, local businessmen with ties to rich foreign businessmen have paid off landowners to take over the land after its 55-year expiration. Isn't this a form of internal exploitation? Isn't this the fear negotiators had when it prohibited fee simple on privately owned land? Do we keep our mouths shut because such exploitation benefits NMDs in concert with rich Asian business associates? Whatever happened to the very issue we wanted protected under Article XII? Is this why some wanted this provision retained so only the few NMDs could benefit from land purchases prohibited by Article XII? Why can't this be opened to everyone so justice for all is attained?

The fear of exploitation from without eventually changed to exploitation from within. ...Isn't this the fear negotiators had when it prohibited fee simple on privately owned land?

Article XII Alienates NMDs

At face value, Article XII purports to protect the indigenous people from the loss of their land. But take a more critical review of how this very provision has alienated our people and children as direct beneficiaries of public and private land.

Firstly, it compromises your absolute right to own your private land by "alienating" half of it to the government. It effectively compromises your final disposition of your property.

Secondly, it permits an option to lease private and government land. In either case, it "alienates" our children as immediate beneficiaries of public and private land for they have to wait for 40-55 years before they can make any claim as recipients of both lands.

Finally, it is race-based where ownership is restricted to Chamorros and Carolinians. The argument that land is cultural is ludicrous. It is now a commodity! The principle concept of the right to own property is under the Bill of Rights of the U.S. Constitution. Therefore, Article XII is discriminatory. It is more the reason to repeal it in its entirety.

Would our land, half of which is controlled by the government, save us from the deepening miseries of a money economy? Would major investments return after our legal institution upheld a discriminatory constitutional provision that failed to protect them? Or are they gone for good? What then is our vision of the future of posterity under prevailing paradigms? Do we stick to regressive developmental policies because we refuse to wake up to reality?

■ ■ ■ ■

H-Mart and Saipan Sanko are putting up their shutters and heading home. It means accelerated revenue degeneration. It means far less revenues in the local coffers. This doesn't go together with plans for economic recovery, *di ba*? Did someone say "better times?" Gee, call it advancing to the rear! It must be the fading battle cry of the ruling majority whispering faintly in the horizon headed into oblivion, *di ba*?

Five tenets for developing, diversifying and protecting island economies

Editor's Note: *This article was originally published in the February 2011 edition of* ED NOW, *the newsletter of the International Economic Development Council*.

By SERGIO LOYA
Special to the Saipan Tribune

Sergio Loya is project manager of Management Analysis Inc.

It is easy for visitors to believe that an island's beauty and tourist attraction is a natural economic development draw, but it isn't that simple. The natural attributes of islands also exaggerate ordinary challenges to economic development. Most islands market themselves as tourism destinations and mold their economy, services, infrastructure, and resources to support this activity. But what happens to those islands when the tourism industry takes a hit? Starting to diversify an island economy during or after an economic or natural disaster is too late.

Review the existing economic pillars

It is always easier, less expensive and less risky to expand or spin off from an existing economic pillar than to build a new one. For example, if an island is a tourism destination, one strategy can be to target new regions from which to draw visitors.

Key: It is critical to nurture a community's existing businesses. Business retention and expansion efforts often are more fruitful, with longer-lasting impacts on a community, than other economic development efforts. Economic developers should bring together small businesses in the same industries to support and strengthen them. Yet simply expanding an existing industry such as tourism still leaves the island vulnerable to fluctuations in that industry, for example, to economic downturns that decrease potential visitors' disposable income and the island's economic diversification and resilience unimproved.

Diversify an island's economy based on its strengths

It is very difficult, expensive and time-consuming to develop a new industry in an island community. However, many islands have innate resources that can be developed to play a larger role in the economy. On some islands, agriculture products can become a solid post of economic activity and existing farming practices and machinery can be improved upon. Other natural resources may be present that should be examined as a means for economic expansion, such as minerals, clay, or stone. Harnessing renewable energy from the sun, wind and ocean is good for on-island use, but hard and expensive to sell off-island due to the distance and capital outlay (e.g., for undersea cables) to sell it.

When managed well, the commercial fishing industry has a great multiplier effect, spurring activity in boats sales, supplies and maintenance, plus the processing, marketing and exporting of harvested seafood. However, commercial fishing faces challenges in both processing the product, moving it quickly to market, and regulatory controls.

Key: Research what existing industries or economic activities are currently being performed on the island, recognize their current role in the economy and examine their potential for expansion or export.

Is there value in the island's geographic location?

Sometimes an island's physical location can be marketable as a secure port of entry for its country. An island can serve as separate, arms-length location where national security checks, searches and verification activities can take place. The island's port(s) can be equipped to handle inspections, conduct or validate searches and perform other national security activities prior to the ship arriving at a country's mainland. Some U.S. territory islands have special status or exemptions from the Jones Act, which offers some tax, security or incentive benefits to ships, cargoes and ship owners. However, ship owners and captains are most likely to take advantage of these exemptions if the island is strategically located along established shipping routes.

Key: Economic developers in U.S. territory or geographically distant islands should research and talk with federal authorities to gauge their interest in making the island an initial stopping point or inspection station for goods bound for the U.S. mainland.

The hits will come from all sides

Islands are subject to natural disasters such as typhoons, hurricanes and earthquakes, in addition to fluctuations in tourism due to the larger economy or the loss of transportation services. In Haiti, the 2010 earthquake compounded problems that already existed in government, the economy, and society. In the U.S. territory of the Commonwealth of the Northern Marianas Islands, Japan Air Lines stopped providing direct air service from Japan to Saipan, which was a major blow to the tourism industry and the economy. Three other blows—the ending of the garment industry, the high cost of fossil fuels to run its power plants, and the economic recession—have brought the CNMI's once successful, autonomous economy to its knees.

Every island that has a tourist-based economy depends on the inflow of visitors, which can be compromised by anything from visitor visa problems to transportation issues. Fixing, providing, or replacing that service quickly is the key to keeping an economic loss from becoming an economic catastrophe. Having a plan for these economic impact blows is critical to resolving them quickly, efficiently, and effectively is good economic development practices.

Key: The diversification of an island economy is a must because the threats to its stability will come. In fact, it can take longer for an island to recover from an economic blow than it can for mainland economies.

Mapping the strategy and plan of action

Island leaders must unite and develop a master economic development plan in order to direct resources and focus efforts on projects that make an immediate positive impact on their economy. Ultimately, there will be more projects than money, time, and resources allow, so creating an economic development master plan that identifies projects, priorities, funding opportunities, public-private partnerships, and targeted tax incentives is critical. Without a master plan, the efforts and the successes will be hit and miss. And as always, the challenge of any report, plan or recommendation is in its implementation.

Key: True development of an economy is the art of taking stock of resources; understanding strengths, weaknesses, opportunities and limitations; and persuading leaders, citizens and industry to move forward together toward common economic goals.

Satellite image and accompanying information are provided by the National Weather Service. For an updated weather forecast, visit the National Weather Service Guam Homepage: www.prh.noaa.gov/guam/

The Weather

5-Day Forecast for Saipan and Tinian

TODAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY	SATURDAY	SUNDAY
Mostly cloudy with isolated showers. Northeast winds 10 to 20 mph.	Mostly cloudy with isolated showers. Northeast winds 10 to 20 mph.	Mostly cloudy with isolated showers.	Mostly cloudy with isolated showers.	Mostly cloudy with isolated showers.
▲86° ▼76°	▲86° ▼76°	▲86° ▼76°	▲85° ▼76°	▲85° ▼76°

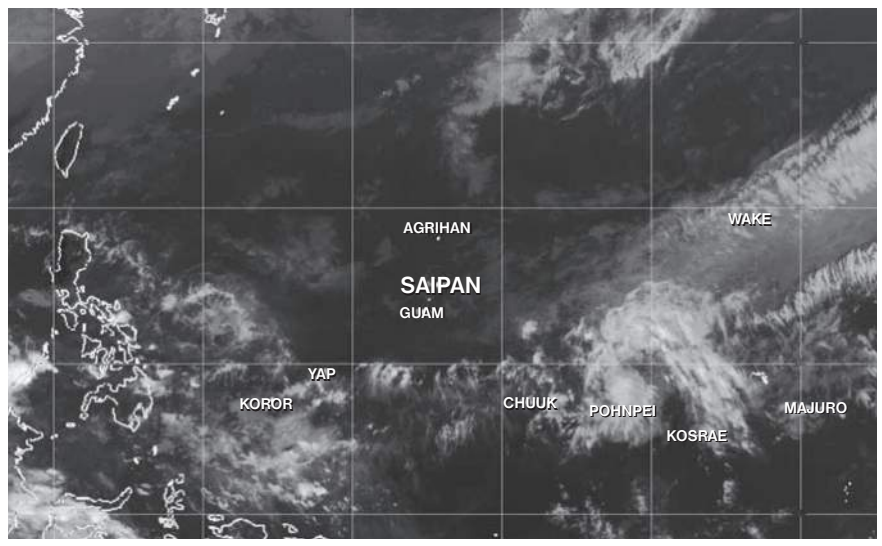
Micronesia

Guam and Rota	Thundershowers	▲84	▼76
Palau	Thunderstorms	▲87	▼77
Yap	Rain	▲89	▼77
Chuuk	Showers	▲84	▼79
Pohnpei	Showers	▲84	▼76
Kosrae	Mostly Sunny	▲87	▼78
Majuro	Showers	▲86	▼77

Around The Globe

Auckland	Partly Cloudy	▲73	▼65
Beijing	Sunny	▲45	▼24
Hong Kong	Partly Cloudy	▲65	▼60
Honolulu	Partly Cloudy	▲80	▼71
London	Sunny	▲46	▼38
Los Angeles	Mostly Cloudy	▲64	▼49
Manila	Thundershowers	▲82	▼74
Melbourne	Mostly Sunny	▲67	▼53
Miami	Showers	▲79	▼64
New York	Sunny	▲51	▼23
Osaka	Showers	▲44	▼35
Paris	Sunny	▲45	▼31
Pusan	Sunny	▲44	▼30
Rome	Showers	▲58	▼40
Salem	Rain	▲47	▼39
San Francisco	Rain	▲58	▼52
Seoul	Sunny	▲37	▼23
Tokyo	Partly Cloudy	▲48	▼35
Washington, DC	Sunny	▲61	▼31

Yesterday's Satellite Image



PICTURE TIME: 1:00PM, TUESDAY, MARCH 1, 2011
Western North Pacific between equator and 25N from 130E to 180.

A surface trough extends from near 1N137E to 7N139E. Low-level convergence associated with the trough is producing scattered showers across portions of the Republic of Palau and Yap state between 1N and 9N from 133E to 140E. A second surface trough stretches from 5N156E to 12N159E. Scattered showers and isolated thunderstorms generated by the trough can be found across Pohnpei state between 4N and 13N from 155E to 160E. Low-level wind convergence is producing scattered showers over Kosrae, Kwajalein and portions of the Marshall Islands between 4N and 10N from 162E to 170E and between 5N and 12N from 170E to 180. A shear line enters the discussion area near 21N180 and continues southwestward beyond 18N170E to end near 15N155E. An upper-level trough extends southward from 25N165E to 12N153E. These two features are combining to produce scattered showers and extensive cloudiness along and up to 450 miles northwest of the shear line.

Tides

Saipan Harbor

12:19 AM	Today	Low Tide:	0.0 Feet
7:13 AM	Today	High Tide:	1.8 Feet
12:49PM	Today	Low Tide:	1.0 Feet
5:54 PM	Today	High Tide:	1.8 Feet

Sunrise/Sunset

Today	6:34 AM	6:25 PM
Thursday	6:33 AM	6:25 PM
Friday	6:33 AM	6:25 PM
Saturday	6:32 AM	6:25 PM
Sunday	6:32 AM	6:26 PM

Moonrise/Moonset

Today	4:32 AM	4:19 PM
Thursday	5:11 AM	5:08 PM
Friday	5:48 AM	5:55 PM
Saturday	6:23 AM	6:41 PM
Sunday	6:58 AM	7:27 PM

FLIGHT SCHEDULE AS OF DECEMBER 16, 2010

DEPARTURES

SAIPAN-GUAM

C09317	4:25am	5:15am	Daily
C09313	7:55am	8:45am	3, 6
C09313	8:30am	9:20am	1, 2, 4, 5, 7
C09601	12:10pm	1:00pm	1, 4, 5, 7
C09603	3:05pm	3:55pm	1, 2, 4, 5, 7
C09605	6:20pm	7:10pm	Daily
C09599	9:30pm	10:20pm	Daily

SAIPAN-NARITA (NRT)

DL287	6:10am	8:45am	Daily
DL285	6:40am	9:15am	1, 3, ,4, 5, 6
DL297	4:35pm	7:15pm	Daily

SAIPAN-OSAKA (KIX)

OZ119	4:00am	6:40am	Daily

SAIPAN-BUSAN (PUS)

OZ608	3:20am	6:50am	1, 4, 5, 7

SAIPAN-SEOUL (ICN)

OZ606	2:10am	6:00am	1
OZ606	2:40am	6:30am	2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7
OZ604	3:20pm	7:00pm	2, 4, 6, 7
OZ119	4:00am	11:25am	Daily via KIX

SAIPAN-SHANGHAI (PVG)

FM844	2:50am	5:40am	2, 6

SAIPAN-BEIJING (PEK)

CA988	3:15am	6:55am	1, 5 Dec 13, 17, 20, 24 & 27 only

SAIPAN-MANILA (MNL)

OZ606/701	2:10am	11:50am	1 via ICN
OZ606/701	2:40am	11:50am	2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7 via ICN
C09317/891	4:25am	9:45am	3, 6 via GUM
DL285/173	6:40am	10:15pm	1, 3, 4, 5, 6 via NRT
C09313/933	7:55am	9:25pm	3 via GUM
C09313/893	7:55am	11:00pm	3 via GUM-Palau
C09603/933	3:05pm	9:25pm	5 via GUM
C09603/893	3:05pm	11:00pm	5 via GUM-Palau
OZ604/703	3:20pm	11:00pm	2, 4, 6, 7 ICN
OZ604/715	3:20pm	11:30pm	7
C09605/933	6:20pm	9:40pm	1, 2, 4, 6, 7 via GUM
C09599/PR111	9:30pm	7:50am+1	1, 3, 5, 6, 7 via GUM

SAIPAN-HONG KONG

OZ606/721	2:10am	12:00pm	1 via ICN
OZ606/721	2:40am	12:00pm	2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7 via ICN
C09603/909	3:05pm	10:25pm	1, 5 via GUM
OZ604/723	3:20pm	10:35pm	2, 4, 6, 7 via ICN
OZ604/749	3:20pm	11:00pm	2, 4, 6, 7 via ICN

ARRIVALS

GUAM-SAIPAN

C09316	2:45am	3:35am	Daily
C09596	6:35am	7:25am	3, 6
C09596	7:00am	7:50am	1, 2, 4, 5, 7
C09600	10:05am	10:55am	1, 2, 4, 5, 7
C09602	1:40pm	2:30pm	1, 4, 5, 7
C09604	5:00pm	5:50pm	Daily
C09606	8:00pm	8:50pm	Daily

NARITA (NRT)-SAIPAN

DL298	10:25am	3:05pm	Daily
DL286	7:45pm	12:20am+1	2, 3, ,4 ,5, 7
DL288	8:00pm	12:30am+1	Daily

OSAKA (KIX)-SAIPAN

OZ120	9:50am	2:20am+1	Daily

BUSAN (PUS)-SAIPAN

OZ607	9:10pm	2:20am+1	3, 4, 6, 7

SEOUL (ICN)-SAIPAN

OZ603	9:00am	2:20pm	2, 4, 6, 7
OZ120	7:10pm	2:20am+1	Daily via KIX
OZ605	7:40pm	1:00am+1	7
OZ605	8:10pm	1:30am+1	1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6

SHANGHAI (PVG)-SAIPAN

FM843	7:15pm	1:50am+1	1, 5

BEIJING (PEK)-SAIPAN

CA987	6:40pm	1:55am+1	4, 7 Dec 12, 16, 19, 23 & 26 only

MANILA (MNL)-SAIPAN

OZ704/603	12:10am	2:20pm	2, 4, 6, 7 via ICN
OZ716/603	12:30am	2:20pm	4, 6 via ICN
DL172/286	8:05am	12:20am+1	2, 3, 4, 5, 7
C0890/9606	10:55am	8:50pm	3, 6 via GUM
OZ702/605	1:10pm	1:00am+1	7 via ICN
OZ702/605	1:10pm	1:30am+1	1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6 via ICN
PR110/C09596	10:15pm	7:25am+1	6 via GUM
PR110/C09596	10:15pm	7:50am+1	1, 2, 4, 7 via GUM
C0892/9596	10:25pm	7:25am+1	3 via GUM-Palau
C0892/9596	10:25pm	7:50am+1	5 via GUM-Palau
C0934/9596	11:10pm	7:50am+1	1, 2, 7 via GUM
C0934/9596	11:25pm	7:50am+1	4 via GUM
C0934/9596	11:59pm	7:25am+1	3 via GUM
C0934/9596	11:59pm	7:50am+1	5 via GUM

HONG KONG-SAIPAN

OZ724/603	12:30am	2:20pm	2 ,4 ,6, 7 via ICN
OZ750/603	1:00am	2:20pm	2, 4, 6, 7 via ICN
OZ722/605	1:30pm	1:00am+1	7 via ICN
OZ722/605	1:30pm	1:30am+1	1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6 via ICN
C0910/9596	11:15pm	7:50am+1	1, 5 via GUM

Editor's Note: Days: Monday (1), Tuesday (2), Wednesday (3), Thursday (4), Friday (5), Saturday (6) and Sunday (7); CZ: China Southern; CO: Continental; FM: Shanghai Airlines; DL: Delta Airlines; OZ: Asiana; CA: Air China
ETD: Estimated Time of Departure; ETA: Estimated Time of Arrival. The *Saipan Tribune* is not responsible for any changes in the schedule.)

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- ISLAND SNAPSHOTS
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- BIRTHDAY GREETINGS
  A way for families and friends to greet their loved ones, accompanied by a picture of the person celebrating his/her birthday.
- BUSINESS
  Corporate donations, volunteer work, promotions, granting of awards, team-building exercises, meetings and other activities by members of the business community.
- SAMU'T SARI
  Pictures from the islands' Filipino community, primarily focusing on Filipino activities, gatherings, get-togethers, volunteer work, etc.
- TRAVELOGUE
  Pictures of off-island travels. Contributors may submit up to 10 pictures for consideration.

ANNOUNCEMENTS

- COMMUNITY BRIEFS
  Announcements of upcoming activities of organizations, community clubs, government agencies, and private companies.
- CAMPUS BULLETIN
  Announcements of upcoming activities in public and private schools, as well as calendar of activities. May include PTSA meetings, enrollment procedures.

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- Photos should be original and not copyrighted. Contributors must have the right to allow the *Saipan Tribune* to publish the pictures.
- Digital pictures should be high-resolution (minimum of 800kb).
- Must have complete details (who, what, where, when), the name of contact person, and phone number.
- Photos must have been taken in the last two months.
- For birthday greetings, must be submitted no later than 12 noon of the previous day to make it to next day's edition.

For announcements:

- Must have complete details (who, what, where, when), the name of contact person, and a phone number.
- Must be submitted no later than 12 noon to make it to next day's edition.

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- Drop off: 2nd Floor, JP Center, Beach Road, Garapan, Saipan
  To check if contributions are received, call (670) 235-6397, 235-2440, 235-8747

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- The *Saipan Tribune* will decide how often community announcements are going to be published.
- For Travelogue, the *Saipan Tribune* reserves the right to choose which pictures to publish.

FREEDOM AIR FLIGHT SCHEDULE

Airline	ETD	ETA	Frequency
Guam–Rota			
FRE 100	7:30	8:00	Daily
Rota–Saipan			
FRE 100	8:20	8:50	Daily
Guam–Rota			
FRE 300	17:00	17:30	Daily
Rota–Saipan	17:50	18:20	Daily
Saipan–Rota			
FRE 200	9:30	10:00	Daily
Rota–Guam	10:20	10:45	Daily
Saipan–Rota			
FRE 400	18:55	19:25	Daily
Rota–Guam			
FRE 400	19:40	20:10	Daily
Saipan–Tinian			
FRE 101	6:45	6:55	Daily
FRE 103	7:30	7:40	Daily
FRE 105	8:00	8:10	Daily
FRE 107	8:40	8:50	Daily
FRE 109	9:10	9:20	Daily
FRE 111	10:45	10:55	Daily

Airline	ETD	ETA	Frequency
FRE 113	11:40	11:50	Daily
FRE 115	13:00	13:10	Daily
FRE 117	14:30	14:40	Daily
FRE 119	16:00	16:10	Daily
FRE 121	16:40	16:50	Daily
FRE 123	17:40	17:50	Daily
FRE 125	18:30	18:40	Daily
Tinian–Saipan			
FRE 102	7:05	7:15	Daily
FRE 104	7:50	8:00	Daily
FRE 106	8:20	8:30	Daily
FRE 108	9:00	9:10	Daily
FRE 110	10:00	10:10	Daily
FRE 112	11:05	11:15	Daily
FRE 114	12:00	12:10	Daily
FRE 116	13:30	13:40	Daily
FRE 118	14:50	15:00	Daily
FRE 120	16:20	16:30	Daily
FRE 122	17:00	17:10	Daily
FRE 124	18:05	18:15	Daily
FRE 126	18:50	19:00	Daily

NMI CRIME STOPPERS

Anonymous tips can now be submitted through the following:

- Call 234-7272 (PARA) on any telephone
- *11 on any PTI cellular phone
- Log on to the internet at www.nmicrimestoppers.com

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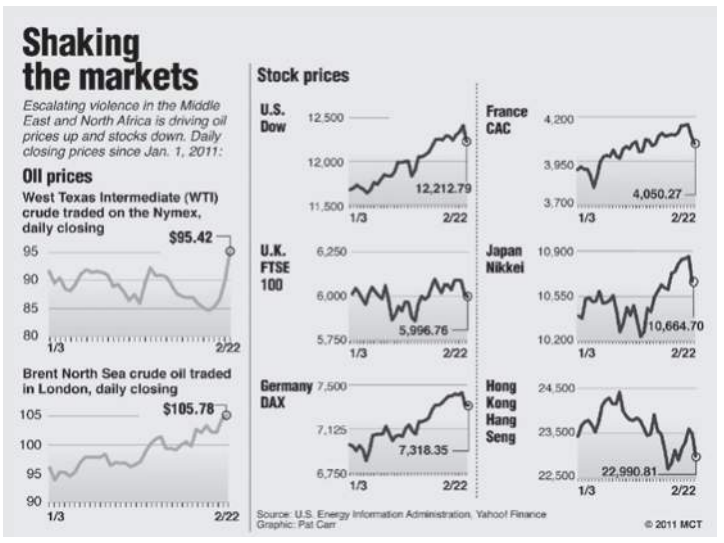
Business

Oil hovers near $97; traders eye Libyan exports

By ALEX KENNEDY
ASSOCIATED PRESS



SINGAPORE (AP)—Oil prices hovered near $97 a barrel Tuesday in Asia as traders eyed Libya's battered crude exports and mulled whether political upheaval will spread to other oil-rich countries.

Benchmark crude for April delivery was up 34 cents at $97.31 a barrel at midday Singapore time in electronic trading on the New York Mercantile Exchange. The contract lost 91 cents to settle at $96.97 on Monday.

In London, Brent crude for April delivery was up 65 cents to $112.45 a barrel on the ICE Futures exchange.

Libya's top oil official, Shukri Ghanem, said Monday that the country's crude production had been cut by around 50 percent, or about 800,000 barrels a day. International pressure increased on Libyan leader Moammar Gadhafi to step down as his supporters and opponents fought in towns outside the capital, Tripoli.

So far Libya has been the biggest oil producer to see exports disrupted by political uprisings this year that have toppled governments in Tunisia and Egypt and sparked violent protests in Yemen, Iran, Oman, Bahrain, Algeria and Morocco.

Oil traders are most concerned the unrest could spread to Saudi Arabia, the world's largest crude exporter. Some analysts expect oil prices will drop once Gadhafi resigns or Libyan oil exports stabilize.

"Sharply higher energy prices are a clear threat to the world economy and to emerging markets," Citigroup said in a report. "However, most likely, this phase will pass, oil prices will be contained and markets will rally."

In other Nymex trading in April contracts, heating oil rose 0.6 cent to $2.94 a gallon and gasoline gained 0.6 cents to $2.90 a gallon. Natural gas futures were down 0.6 cent at $4.03 per 1,000 cubic feet.

BUSINESS BRIEFS

Obama: Flexibility OK, but health care law remains

WASHINGTON (AP)—Anxious to ease deepening political tensions with the states, President Barack Obama on Monday told governors he wants to speed up their ability to enforce his signature health care law on their own terms. But his concession goes only so far: He warned he won't allow states to weaken the law. He also told them not to vilify their own states' public workers while struggling with spending cuts. Hosting governors of both parties on his own turf, Obama offered them what they often request: more flexibility as they cope with painful budget dilemmas. Declaring that he would "go to bat for whatever works," Obama supported letting states propose their own health care plans by 2014—three years faster than the current law allows.

Fed boss likely to get earful on higher gas prices

WASHINGTON (AP)—Federal Reserve Chairman Ben Bernanke will likely face sharp questioning this week from members of Congress about rising gas prices, faster inflation and high unemployment. Just as the economy has gained some momentum, a new danger has emerged. Sharply higher fuel costs could prompt people to spend less on other things, slowing the recovery and possibly hiring. That new risks—along with already elevated unemployment—are likely to be cited by Bernanke as reasons why the Fed must stick with its stimulus program and buy $600 billion worth of Treasury bonds through June. At the same time, Bernanke is likely to downplay concerns that rising energy and food prices will trigger high inflation. Bernanke is slated to kick off back-to-back appearances on Capitol Hill Tuesday, when he delivers the Fed's twice-a-year economic report to Congress.

Japan's jobless rate flat amid battle over budget

TOKYO (AP)—Japan's jobless rate held steady in January but consumer spending fell from a year ago, the government said Tuesday, underscoring the fragility of its economic recovery as a political battle rages over the next national budget. The country's jobless rate stood at 4.9 percent in January, unchanged from December. The seasonally adjusted figure indicates a recovery from the recent downturn, when it crept as high as 5.4 percent in 2009, and matched an average of economist forecasts by the Kyodo news agency. But the government also said consumer spending fell 1.0 percent in January from a year earlier, as the average salary at working households declined.

Nation

Robotics shutdown briefly strands astronaut

CAPE CANAVERAL, Fla. (AP)—A robotic system shutdown interrupted Monday's spacewalk outside the International Space Station, leaving an astronaut stuck with an 800-pound pump in his hands for nearly a half-hour.

Good thing it was weightless.

Spacewalker Stephen Bowen was in no danger, but it didn't sound pleasant.

Mission Control asked if he was comfortable.

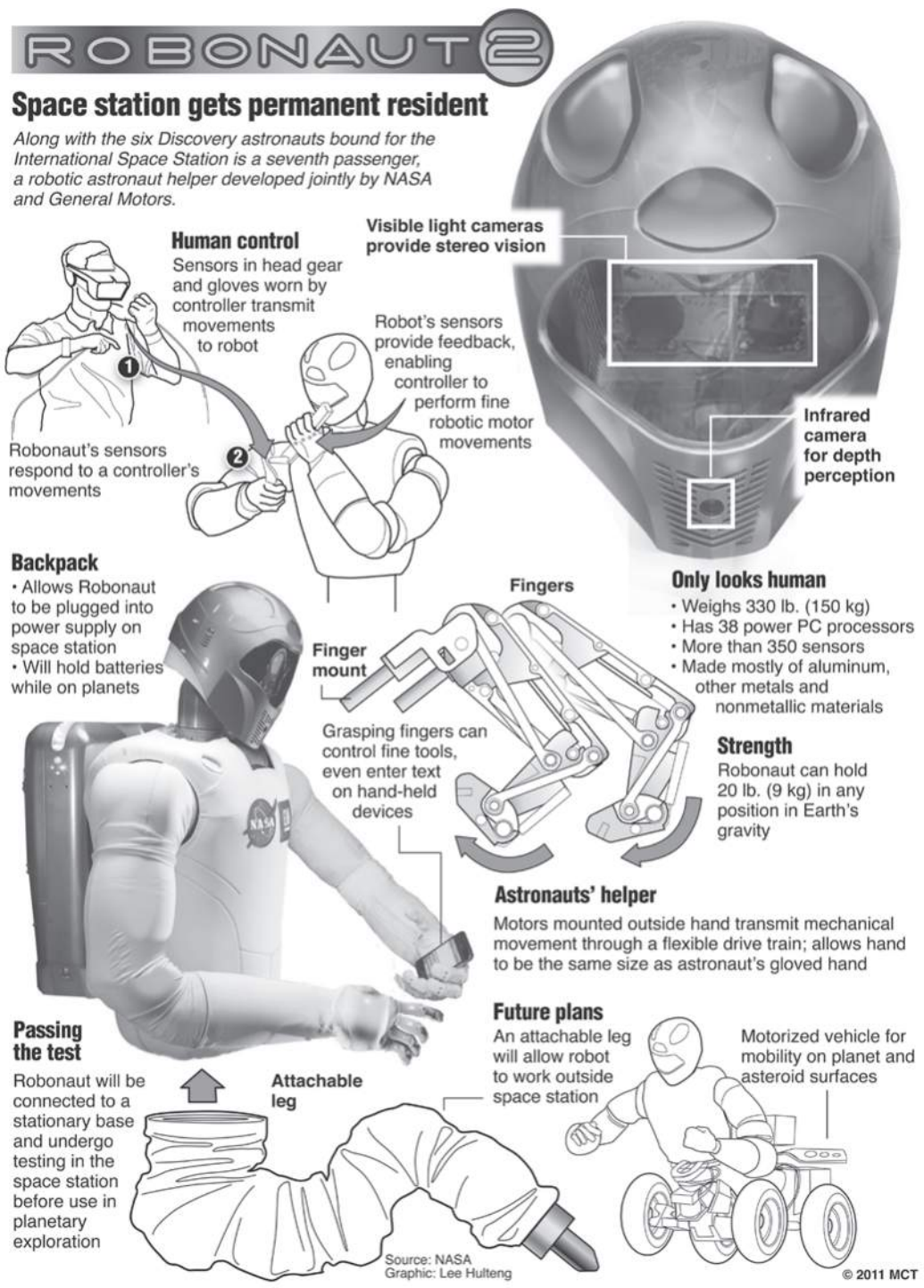
"I'm fine as long as it's not too much longer," Bowen radioed. "How much longer?"

Bowen was perched on a small platform at the end of the 58-foot robotic arm, used to carry spacewalking astronauts where they need to go. The problem arose at the two-hour mark when a work station controlling the robot arm shut down. The astronauts operating the arm inside the space station rushed with all their manuals, notes and laptops to another computer station in another room.

It took a while to get the second station working. For nearly a half-hour, the arm was motionless, with Bowen stuck gripping the 5-by-4-foot broken cooling pump.

He dared not let go.

Bowen was told the trouble would be resolved soon. But it took several more minutes until the robot arm came back to life. Finally, the operation resumed and Bowen carried the pump to its new location on the exterior of the space station. He got help from fellow spacewalker Alvin Drew in latching the pump down.


ROBONAUT 2
Space station gets permanent resident
Along with the six Discovery astronauts bound for the International Space Station is a seventh passenger, a robotic astronaut helper developed jointly by NASA and General Motors.
Human control
Sensors in head gear and gloves worn by controller transmit movements to robot
Visible light cameras provide stereo vision
Robot's sensors provide feedback, enabling controller to perform fine robotic motor movements
Robonaut's sensors respond to a controller's movements
Infrared camera for depth perception
Backpack
• Allows Robonaut to be plugged into power supply on space station
• Will hold batteries while on planets
Fingers
Finger mount
Grasping fingers can control fine tools, even enter text on hand-held devices
Only looks human
• Weighs 330 lb. (150 kg)
• Has 38 power PC processors
• More than 350 sensors
• Made mostly of aluminum, other metals and nonmetallic materials
Strength
Robonaut can hold 20 lb. (9 kg) in any position in Earth's gravity
Astronauts' helper
Motors mounted outside hand transmit mechanical movement through a flexible drive train; allows hand to be the same size as astronaut's gloved hand
Future plans
An attachable leg will allow robot to work outside space station
Motorized vehicle for mobility on planet and asteroid surfaces
Passing the test
Robonaut will be connected to a stationary base and undergo testing in the space station before use in planetary exploration
Attachable leg
Source: NASA
Graphic: Lee Hulteng
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NASA officials later blamed a computer software glitch and said it had been corrected.

Despite the snag, Bowen and Drew managed to complete all their major chores, including prep work for installing a new storage room at the station. They even had time for an education experiment.

As the 6 1/2-hour spacewalk wrapped up, Drew twisted the top of a small bottle, ridding it of air and filling it with the vacuum of space. NASA calls the Japanese experiment "message in a bottle."

There's no actual message inside, but the bottle is signed by astronauts and will be put on display in Japan. It's an effort by the Japanese Space Agency to raise public interest.

In a bit of space trivia, Drew became the world's 200th spacewalker when he emerged from the 220-mile-high complex. The first was Soviet cosmonaut Alexi Leonov in 1965. He and Bowen will go back out Wednesday for one final spacewalk.

Bowen got his spacewalking assignment as a substitute for Timothy Kopra, who was injured last month in a bicycle accident and bumped off the flight.

And he won't get a shot at another shuttle ride. This is Discovery's final voyage, and only two other shuttle trips remain. The fleet will be retired by summer's end.

Late Monday, the astronauts learned they will get an extra day in space, with the mission extended to 12 days. The astronauts will do some extra work at the space station, and there may be a flyaround of the entire complex by a Soyuz capsule for picture-taking.

Authorities: Man persuaded moms to abuse kids

DETROIT (AP)—A Michigan man built an online profile posing as a good-looking single dad and caring psychologist and persuaded mothers across the country to sexually assault their children as a form of therapy, then send him the images of the attacks, authorities said Monday.

Since authorities arrested him in October, seven children were rescued and at least three mothers have been arrested. Prosecutors say all of the children are now safe.

Steven Demink, 41, of Redford Township, Mich., appeared in federal court in Detroit to enter his plea on six charges related to the sexual exploitation of children. Seven charges were dropped as part of a plea agreement with prosecutors. He faces 15 years to life in prison when he is sentenced in June.

Court documents paint a picture of a man who targeted single mothers, and in some cases, promised them a date if they followed through with his directions. He would identify himself in conversations as Dalton St. Clair, a single father of a 14-year-old girl, prosecutors said, and posted pictures of male models as his headshots.

He connected with mothers in New Hampshire, Idaho, Florida and elsewhere from April 2009 until September 2010, authorities say, and got them to engage in sexual acts with their children and send images via e-mail or through a live web stream. The children ranged in age from 3 to 15.

In one case, Demink started online chats with an Oregon woman about the sexual development of her eight-year-old autistic son, according to a plea agreement. He told her to engage in sexually explicit conduct with her son as a way to teach him about sex, and she did so while Demink watched on a web camera, prosecutors say.

"Demink intimated to these women that the result of the therapy would be healthier children," the document said.

Federal agents were tipped off to his operation by the Teton County Sheriff's Office in Idaho, said Khaalid Walls, a spokesman for the U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement (ICE) Office of Homeland Security Investigations, which led the probe. The mother of a woman who had been chatting with him called sheriff's officials in late 2009.

Wis. gov. to outline ultimate intentions in budget

MADISON, Wis. (AP)—Wisconsin Gov. Scott Walker's explosive proposal to take nearly all collective bargaining rights away from most public workers represents just one piece of his vision for the state's future. Now he's ready to reveal the rest.

With the union rights proposal stuck in a legislative stalemate thanks to runaway Senate Democrats, the Republican governor planned to forge ahead with the Tuesday release of his two-year spending plan that will include major cuts to schools and local governments to help close a projected $3.6 billion budget shortfall.

Walker says his collective bargaining measure would free local governments from having to bargain with public employee unions as they deal with the cuts he'll outline Tuesday. Schools last week started putting teachers on notice that their contracts may not be renewed for next year given the budget uncertainty.

Walker has confirmed he will propose cutting education aid by about $900 million, or 9 percent statewide.

"All of this turmoil, all of this chaos, are examples that Walker's proposals are too extreme," said Mary Bell, president of the Wisconsin Education Association Council. She said more than 2,000 teachers had received nonrenewal notices as of Monday.

Labor leaders and Democratic lawmakers say Walker's proposal is intended to undermine unions and weaken a key Democratic voter base. The state's largest public employee union filed a complaint Monday alleging Walker has engaged in unfair labor practices by refusing to negotiate.

The Wisconsin State Employees Union complaint asked the state labor relations board to extend its contract and require Walker's administration to engage in collective bargaining.

Walker insists Wisconsin is broke and has nothing to offer. He spent another day touring the state Monday, renewing his threat of deeper cuts and layoffs if his proposal isn't passed by Tuesday. If the state misses that deadline, it won't be able to save $165 million through debt refinancing, which was a key part of his bill, Walker said.

ACROSS THE NATION

NJ nursing home row with 72-year-old kills man, 81

JERSEY CITY, N.J. (AP)—Authorities say an 81-year-old man has died after a fight with a 72-year-old fellow dementia patient at a New Jersey nursing home. Hudson County Prosecutor Edward DeFazio says Andy Berthelot (BUR'-tuh-loh) died Friday at a hospital. An autopsy determined that he died of a brain hemorrhage, and his death was ruled a homicide. DeFazio told The Jersey Journal that Berthelot picked up a TV Feb. 20 and tried to hit the other man with it. The other man then grabbed a plastic trash can and struck Berthelot in the head. DeFazio says both men were dementia patients at Newport Nursing Home and Rehabilitation Center in Jersey City.

Gunman shoots deputy in La. sheriff's office

COLFAX, La. (AP)—Authorities say a man armed with an assault rifle and other weapons took a hostage and wounded a deputy inside a small central Louisiana sheriff's office before being shot. State police say the gunman, 52-year-old John Futrell of Colfax, and the deputy, whose name was not released, are in the hospital. Futrell is listed in critical but stable condition and the deputy was just listed as stable. Police say the gunman walked into the Grant Parish Sheriff's Office at 3 p.m. Monday. They say he had a handgun and a knife plus extra magazines and ammunition for each firearm.

Roads flooded, power out in parts of Midwest

FINDLAY, Ohio (AP)—Storms with heavy rain, high winds and hail flooded homes and roads Monday and knocked out power in parts of the Midwest, where at least six people were injured and three tornadoes touched down in Indiana. Three homes in Kentucky were destroyed by a tornado. Flooding was a threat in all 88 of Ohio's counties, the National Weather Service said. Wind gusts of 60 mph or more were recorded in several locations, followed by scattered reports of homes with roof damage, uprooted trees and downed power lines. Utilities reported that as many as 31,000 Ohio customers had no power late Monday morning. It's likely to get worse, especially around Findlay, where resident know all too well what to do when there's a threat of flooding.

Asia

China rolls back press freedoms amid protest calls

BEIJING (AP)—China appears to be rolling back some press freedoms it introduced ahead of the 2008 Olympics, barring foreign journalists from working near a popular Shanghai park and along a major Beijing shopping street after calls for weekly protests in those spots appeared online.

Foreign journalists who tried to take photos or shoot video on Beijing's Wangfujing shopping street on Sunday were told they needed special permission to work there. An Associated Press photographer was told Tuesday that the area near People's Square in Shanghai was also off-limits.

The restrictions put the popular leisure spots on par with Tibet as out-of-bounds areas where foreign reporters need special permission to work, and come after journalists were attacked and harassed while working in the areas over the weekend.

The tighter restrictions follow anonymous online calls for peaceful protests in 35 Chinese cities inspired by the demonstrations that have swept the Middle East.

The rules go against a pledge made in the run-up to the 2008 Beijing Olympics allowing reporters to work freely anywhere in China as long as they had the permission of the interviewee.

However, before and during the Olympics, foreign journalists were blocked from covering potential protests, and were forcibly taken away from some areas.

A Chinese security guard stands on duty in an area that is now off limits to foreign journalists working in Beijing, China, Tuesday, March 1, 2011.
AP

Security in the capital is always very tight in early March when the country holds its annual two-week legislative session, and dissidents are routinely put under house arrest or taken in for questioning around this time. The reporting rules conveyed this week, however, are new.

An AP cameraman who had been granted local police permission to film Wangfujing on Tuesday was still barred from approaching the spot in front of McDonald's where protesters had been told to gather over the weekend. A police officer said it was off-limits for filming because of street repairs and construction, though none was visible.

In Shanghai, an AP photographer was summoned Tuesday to meet with police and was told he was now forbidden to go to the area around People's Square to take photos, interview people or even visit.

It wasn't clear how many people, if any, tried to protest in Beijing on Sunday, but authorities detained several Chinese citizens and harassed foreign journalists, in some cases confiscating their equipment.

The Foreign Correspondents' Club of China said journalists from 15 news organizations "experienced serious interference" Sunday near Wangfujing. Journalists from five news organizations reported having their equipment confiscated or reporting material destroyed, the FCCC said in a statement Monday.

Bloomberg News said one of its journalists was assaulted by five men who appeared to be plainclothes security officers and had a video camera confiscated. A BBC journalist wrote that he and a colleague were roughed up while being thrown into a van by men in plain clothes.

Also Sunday, police near Shanghai's People's Square blew shrill whistles nonstop to keep people moving, while street-cleaning trucks in Beijing drove repeatedly up Wangfujing, spraying water to keep crowds pressed to the edges.

U.S. and European diplomats and an overseas media rights group have criticized Chinese authorities for the harassment.

"This is the worst aggression against the foreign press we've seen since the Olympics in 2008," Bob Dietz, the Asia coordinator for the Committee to Protect Journalists, said in a statement. "Such a heavy-handed response discredits the ruling Chinese Communist Party and highlights their fear of popular opposition."

NZ mourns quake dead with 2 minutes of silence

CHRISTCHURCH, New Zealand (AP)—Rescue crews switched off their jackhammers and joined in two minutes of silence observed across New Zealand on Tuesday to mourn as many as 240 people killed in an earthquake exactly one week earlier.

Church bells tolled throughout the country at 12:51 p.m. to mark the start of a national commemoration for those lost when the quake struck the southern city of Christchurch, collapsing office blocks and sending bricks and other rubble tumbling into the streets.

Thousands of people across the city gathered in groups, or on their own, paused and bowed their heads. Backhoes and bulldozers tugging at the massive piles of rubble rumbled into silence. Traffic simply stopped.

Flags flew at half-staff across the country, and Prime Minister John Key asked the nation's 4.5 million people to join in a show of unity for people "enduring tragedy beyond what most of us can imagine."

The bells pealed again to end the silence. People hugged in the streets, cars started and moved on, and crews picking through the rubble fired up their machines and went back to work.

Police said they have pulled 154 bodies from the wreckage, and said the number of others missing and feared dead indicated a final death toll higher than previously thought.

"The figure ... of around 240 is solidifying," Superintendent Dave Cliff told reporters.

The magnitude 6.3 quake struck within a few miles (kilometers) of downtown Christchurch, when the southern city of 350,000 was bustling with workers, shoppers and tourists going about their activities. It brought down or badly damaged office towers, churches and thousands of homes across the city in one of New Zealand's worst disasters.

More than 900 international urban disaster specialists are among hundreds more local officials who continued to pick through the wreckage Tuesday. No one has been pulled out alive since the day after the quake, and officials say it is almost certain no one else will be.

"Realistically it would be a miracle if we encountered anyone at this stage on any of the sites which we are currently working on," said Jim Steward-Black, the co-ordinator of the New Zealand urban search and rescue teams.

South says Koreas mustn't repeat 'dark history'

SEOUL, South Korea (AP)—South Korea's president called Tuesday for serious talks with North Korea, warning that the rivals must not repeat their "dark history" and urging Pyongyang to abandon its nuclear programs.

President Lee Myung-bak made the remarks in a nationally televised speech amid worries over rising animosity following Monday's launch of annual South Korea-U.S. military drills, which Pyongyang calls a rehearsal for invasion. The North's state media said Tuesday that the drills could cause a "nuclear catastrophe" on the Korean peninsula.

"The Korean nation cannot afford to lag behind the currents of the times, repeating the dark history of yesteryear," Lee said, referring to the Koreas' bloody 1950-53 war and the subsequent decades of violence and tension. "Now is the opportune time to open a new kind of future on the Korean peninsula."

Lee said South Korea could provide aid to the impoverished North and is ready to resume inter-Korean talks "anytime with an open mind." He said, however, that "the North should step forward for serious dialogue and cooperation and refrain from developing nuclear weapons and missiles."

Lee, who spoke at a ceremony marking Korea's 1919 independence uprising against Japan's colonial rule, also said North Korea must take responsibility for "armed provocations."

Ties between the Koreas were badly strained after North Korea shelled a front-line South Korean island in November, killing four people. The barrage came eight months after 46 sailors were killed when a South Korean warship was sunk, which a Seoul-led international investigation blamed on a North Korean torpedo attack. Pyongyang denies involvement.

Lee refrained from using harsh rhetoric against North Korea, a marked contrast from past speeches that vowed stern and immediate retaliation against any new attacks by the North.

Earlier Tuesday, however, Lee's defense chief inspected front-line troops and ordered them to immediately return fire without reporting to him if the North attacks.

ASIAN BRIEFS

Diplomat leads convoy of Filipinos from Libya

MANILA, Philippines (AP)—The Philippine foreign secretary personally led a rescue convoy out of troubled Libya's capital, accompanying about 400 Filipino workers across the border into Tunisia despite the risk, his spokesman said Monday. A migrant workers' advocacy group has called on the Philippine government to do more to organize evacuations. Only about 1,900 of the up to o 30,000 Filipinos working in Libya have so far gotten out, and a witness said the country's embassy is jammed with hundreds seeking refuge. Foreign Secretary Albert del Rosario flew to the region and then traveled by land with two other diplomats to Tripoli on Sunday to escort the workers back to Tunisia in a 55-vehicle convoy, the Foreign Affairs Department said.

Vietnam releases prominent dissident on bail

HANOI, Vietnam (AP)—A well-known Vietnamese pro-democracy dissident has been released on bail after calling for a revolution inspired by protests in the Middle East. The state-run Tuoi Tre newspaper says Dr. Nguyen Dan Que was released on bail Sunday evening after being detained for two days for allegedly attempting to overthrow Vietnam's Communist government. In its report Tuesday, the newspaper quotes an unidentified Ho Chi Minh City police investigator as saying Que was released to his family because of his poor health and his cooperation with police.

4 rare Javan rhinos photographed in Indonesia

JAKARTA, Indonesia (AP)—Four of the world's rarest rhinoceroses were captured by camera traps installed in an Indonesian national park, an environmental group said Monday. The footage from movement-triggered hidden cameras showed two mother Javan rhinos and two calves in Ujung Kulon National Park in November and December last year, said a release from the WWF-Indonesia. Javan rhinos are one of the world's most endangered species with an estimated population of no more than 50 in Ujung Kulon. A few others live in Vietnam's Cat Tien National Park.

World

Pro-Gadhafi forces fight rebels in 2 cities

TRIPOLI, Libya (AP)—International pressure on Moammar Gadhafi to end a crackdown on opponents escalated Monday as his loyalists fought rebels holding the two cities closest to the capital and his warplanes bombed an ammunition depot in the east. The U.S. moved naval and air forces closer to Libya and said all options were open, including patrols of the North African nation's skies to protect its citizens from their ruler.

France said it would fly aid to the opposition-controlled eastern half of the country. The European Union imposed an arms embargo and other sanctions, following the lead of the U.S. and the U.N. The EU was also considering the creation of a no-fly zone over Libya. And the U.S. and Europe were freezing billions in Libya's foreign assets.

"Gadhafi has lost the legitimacy to govern, and it is time for him to go without further violence or delay," U.S. Secretary of State Hillary Rodham Clinton said. "No option is off the table. That of course includes a no-fly zone," she added. British Prime Minister David Cameron told lawmakers: "We do not in any way rule out the use of military assets" to deal with Gadhafi's regime.

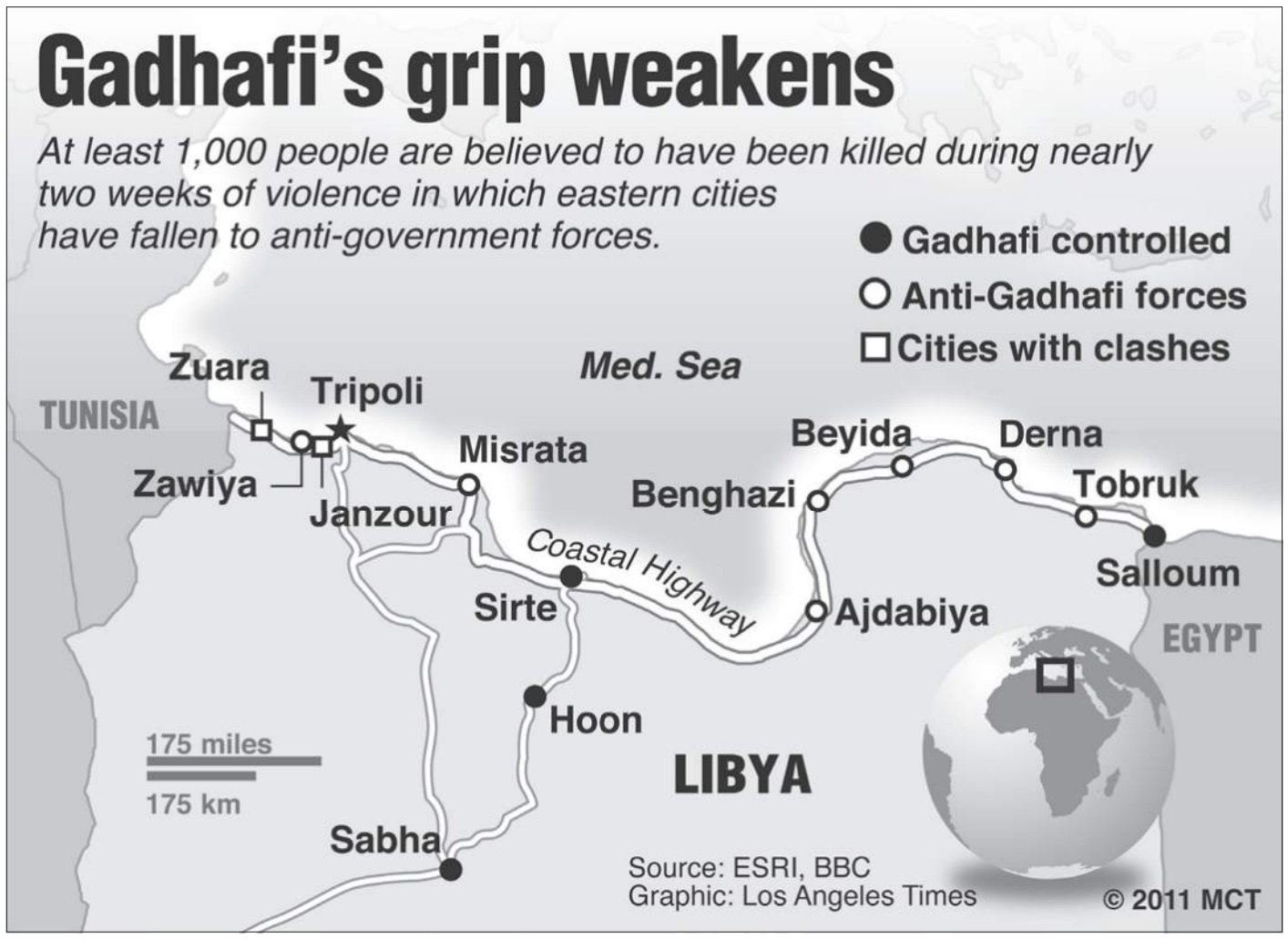
Gadhafi, who in the past two weeks has launched the most brutal crackdown of any Arab regime facing a wave of popular uprisings, laughed off a question from ABC News about whether he would step down as the Obama administration demands.

"My people love me. They would die for me," he said. ABC reported that Gadhafi invited the United Nations or any other organization to Libya on a fact-finding mission.

Gadhafi's remarks were met with derision in Washington. "It sounds, just frankly, delusional," said U.S. Ambassador to the U.N. Susan Rice. She added that Gadhafi's behavior, including laughing on camera in TV interviews amid the chaos, "underscores how unfit he is to lead and how disconnected he is from reality."

The turmoil in the oil-rich nation roiled markets for another day. Libya's oil chief said production had been cut by around 50 percent, denting supplies that go primarily to Europe. The country provides 2 percent of the world's oil, but concerns the unrest will spread to other oil-rich nations has sent oil prices rising worldwide.

The uprising that began Feb. 15 has posed the most serious challenge to Gadhafi in his more than four decades in power. His bloody crackdown has left hundreds, and perhaps thousands, dead. But clashes appear to have eased considerably in the past few days after planeloads of foreign journalists arrived in the capital at the government's invitation.



The two sides are entrenched, and the direction the uprising takes next could depend on which can hold out longest. Gadhafi is dug in in Tripoli and nearby cities, backed by his elite security forces and militiamen who are generally better armed than the military. His opponents, holding the east and much of the country's oil infrastructure, also control pockets in western Libya near Tripoli. They are backed by mutinous army units, but those forces appear to have limited supplies of ammunition and weapons.

Gadhafi opponents have moved to consolidate their hold in the east, centered on Benghazi—Libya's second- largest city, where the uprising began. Politicians there on Sunday set up their first leadership council to manage day-to-day affairs, taking a step toward forming what could be an alternative to Gadhafi's regime.

The opposition is backed by numerous units of the military in the east that joined the uprising, and they hold several bases and Benghazi's airport. But so far, the units do not appear to have melded into a unified fighting force. Gadhafi long kept the military weak, fearing a challenge to his rule, so many units are plagued by shortages of supplies and ammunition.

On Monday, pro-Gadhafi forces retook control of the western border crossings with Tunisia that had fallen under opposition control and they bombed an ammunition depot in the rebel-held east, residents in the area said. The Libyan Defense Ministry denied the bombing.

Regime forces also moved to tighten their ring around two opposition-controlled cities closest to the capital Tripoli—Zawiya and Misrata—where the two sides are locked in standoffs.

An Associated Press reporter saw a large, pro-Gadhafi force massed on the western edge of Zawiya, some 30 miles (50 kilometers) west of Tripoli, with about a dozen armored vehicles along with tanks and jeeps mounted with anti-aircraft guns. An officer said they were from the elite Khamis Brigade, named after one of Gadhafi's sons who commands it. U.S. diplomats have said the brigade is the best-equipped force in Libya.

A resident of Zawiya said by telephone that fighting started in the evening and intensified after sundown when troops loyal to Gadhafi attacked the city from the west and east.

"We were able to repulse the attack. We damaged a tank with an RPG. The mercenaries fled after that," said the resident, who spoke on condition of anonymity for fear of government reprisals.

He said Gadhafi called Zawiya's influential tribal leader Mohammed al-Maktouf and warned him that if the rebels don't leave the city's main square by early Tuesday, they will be hit by warplanes. "We are expecting a major battle," the resident said, added that the rebels killed eight soldiers and mercenaries Monday.

Another resident of Zawiya said he heard gunfire well into the night on the outskirts of town.

In Misrata, Libya's third-largest city 125 miles (200 kilometers) east of Tripoli, pro-Gadhafi troops who control part of an air base on the outskirts tried to advance Monday. But they were repulsed by opposition forces, who included residents with automatic weapons and defected army units allied with them, one of the opposition fighters said.

No casualties were reported and the fighter claimed that his side had captured eight soldiers, including a senior officer.

The opposition controls most of the air base, and the fighter said dozens of anti-Gadhafi gunmen have arrived from farther east in recent days as reinforcements.

Several residents of the eastern city of Ajdabiya said Gadhafi's air force also bombed an ammunition depot nearby held by rebels. One resident, 17-year-old Abdel-Bari Zwei, reported intermittent explosions and a fire, and another, Faraj al-Maghrabi, said the facility was partially damaged. The site contains bombs, missiles and ammunition—key for the undersupplied opposition military forces.

State TV carried a statement by Libya's Defense Ministry denying any attempt to bomb the depot. Ajdabiya is about 450 miles (750 kilometers) east of Tripoli along the Mediterranean coast.

Gadhafi supporters said they were in control of the city of Sabratha, west of Tripoli, which has seemed to go back and forth between the two camps in the past week. Several residents told the AP that protesters set fire to a police station, but then were dispersed. Anti-Gadhafi graffiti—"Down with the enemy of freedom" and "Libya is free, Gadhafi must leave"—were scrawled on some walls, but residents were painting them over.

There were signs of economic distress in the country, with prices skyrocketing and long lines forming for bread and gasoline.

Global efforts to halt Gadhafi's crackdown escalated Monday.

WORLD BRIEFS

Car runs down bicycling demonstrators in Brazil

SAO PAULO (AP)—A motorist sped his car through a pack of more than 100 cycling activists in southern Brazil, sending bikes and screaming riders flying through the air and landing hard on the asphalt in a scene captured on amateur video and posted online. At least 40 cyclists were injured, with most suffering cuts and broken bones, but nobody was killed, authorities said. Police said the suspect, whose name they did not release, fled the scene of the incident Friday evening in Porto Alegre. He was brought in for questioning Monday after authorities found his abandoned car over the weekend. The man claimed riders surrounded his vehicle and began beating on it, causing him to panic and fear for his life, police said. But the lead investigator in the case called that version of events "fanciful," without giving other details.

Activists fight plan to deport Moscow's stray dogs

MOSCOW (AP)—Scroungy and street smart, Moscow's 26,000 stray dogs roam the Russian capital, bedding down in subway stations and even learning to ride the trains. But some are aggressive, traveling in packs and attacking people. Now authorities want to round the strays up and send them to an isolation facility outside the city—a plan that has appalled dog lovers and animal rights activists. Prominent actors and musicians have petitioned City Hall to abandon the idea. Speaking at news conference on Monday, actor Yevgeny Mironov compared the planned facility to a "concentration camp."

Protesters in Oman set supermarket ablaze

SOHAR, Oman (AP)—Protesters set a supermarket ablaze and rallied at two places in this seaside town on Monday in a third consecutive day of unrest that has included deadly clashes in the strategic Gulf nation. Security forces sealed off main roads to Sohar, about 120 miles (200 kilometers) northwest of the capital of Muscat, in an attempt to isolate the protesters and keep crowds from swelling. Omar al-Abri, an official at the state-run Oman News Agency, said one person was confirmed dead Sunday after police used tear gas and rubber bullets to disperse hundreds of demonstrators in Sohar. Witnesses said a supermarket was set on fire Monday and several hundred protesters—mostly young men—were rallying in the town's main roundabout, demanding higher salaries, jobs for unemployed youth and the dismissal of some government ministers.

Focus

New proof of Ivory Coast vote killings

In this Jan. 11, 2011 file photo, local residents look on as the body of a man killed by gunfire lies covered in a side street of the Abobo neighborhood of Abidjan, Ivory Coast. AP

By RUKMINI CALLIMACHI
ASSOCIATED PRESS

ABIDJAN, Ivory Coast (AP)—The entrance to the morgue is like a mouth through which comes an awful smell. It hits you as far back as the parking lot and makes your eyes water. From a dozen yards away, it's strong enough to make you throw up.

What lies inside is proof of mass killings in this once-tranquil country of 21 million, where the sitting president is refusing to give way to his successor. Nearly every day since Laurent Gbagbo was declared the loser of the Nov. 28 election, the bodies of people who voted for his opponent have been showing up on the sides of highways.

Their distraught families have gone from police station to police station looking for them, but the bodies are hidden in plain sight in morgues turned into mass graves. Records obtained by The Associated Press from four of the city's nine morgues show that at least 113 bullet-ridden bodies have been brought in since the election. The number is likely much higher because the AP was refused access to the five other morgues, including one where the United Nations believes as many as 80 bodies were taken.

The bodies are being held hostage and not released to families. Morgue workers say government minders are stationed outside to monitor what goes in or out.

A list of the dead that the AP was allowed to see on the laptop of a company that manages three downtown morgues shows the bodies began arriving Dec. 1, the night the country's electoral commission was due to announce that opposition leader Alassane Ouattara had won. The AP also saw legal documents from authorities instructing funeral homes to pick up bodies found on public roads, and the paperwork handed to families.

The names of the dead indicate they are largely Muslim and from the country's north, the demographic that voted in largest numbers for Ouattara, himself a Muslim from the north.

"The overwhelming number of victims of political violence in Abidjan were either real or perceived supporters of Ouattara," said Human Rights Watch senior researcher Corinne Dufka, the author of a report on the post-election violence. "Many were picked up and killed simply on the basis of their family name."

Families have been allowed inside the morgues only long enough to identify their relatives, if at all. They cannot take their loved ones for burial because the government, still controlled by Gbagbo, has not given the go-ahead for autopsies on bodies with bullet wounds. Funeral home directors say the procedure is normally approved within 48 hours.

Diaby Madoussou, 40, has been waiting for two months. She found her husband lying face down on the pavement where he had taken part in a march to support Ouattara, recognized internationally as the winner of the vote. Ouattara now lives in a hotel under 24-hour United Nations protection, its lobby crowded with supporters taking refuge.

Madoussou turned over her husband's body. He had been shot twice in the ribs.

She took off her pagne and used the wraparound skirt to cover him. She waited beside him wearing only her underclothes until the morgue sent a car to pick up the body. They handed her a 'fiche d'entree,' or entry sheet stating that his body would be stored in vault No. 50 in a morgue in the outlying suburb of Anyama.

"They told me that I need to leave the body there. At the morgue. They say I need to wait ... I don't understand. Why won't they let me take him?" said Madoussou, who has five children. She now spends her days on the floor, her back against the concrete wall of her living room, her eyes staring at the other wall.

AP impact

Many families have only this piece of paper to prove that their loved ones were killed, because police stations are refusing to file police reports. Dozens of victims were seen dragged from their homes and forced into official vehicles.

Gbagbo's government has denied committing any abuses. However, assistant state prosecutor Jean-Claude Aboya conceded that autopsies have not been conducted.

"We're aware of these bodies in the morgues," said Aboya. "The chief prosecutor has told us that there will be an investigation, but he's holding off until things are calmer before proceeding."

Bodies have also been found on highways, freeway medians and trash heaps, and in the lagoons coursing through this palm-lined commercial capital that was once considered among the most stable in Africa.

It has been anything but that since Gbagbo came to power 10 years ago. He signed an alphabet soup of treaties named after the numerous capitals from Lome to Pretoria to Ouagadougou where mediators tried to coax Gbagbo to hold an election. He succeeded in pushing back the election for five years until it was finally held last fall.

In the meantime, a civil war broke out and the country's lagoon-side cafes emptied out. The fighting pitted northerners who wanted Gbagbo out against southerners who supported him.

Now the shores of the glassy lagoon lap up trash. The few cafe clients left are nearly all men, because those who could sent their wives abroad to shield them from the waves of political violence that crash down on this Italy-sized country every time Gbagbo feels cornered.

A confidential 2004 United Nations report obtained by the AP detailed the rise of government death squads that in 2002 started carrying out 'disappearances' of people seen as threats to Gbagbo. The United Nations obtained a video cassette showing as many as 200 cadavers strewn across the road in one locality.

There was a ripple of hope when the election finally went ahead, especially after Gbagbo promised to abide by results issued by the electoral commission. As soon as results began trickling in, however, foreign TV stations were ordered off the air, and the head of the commission began receiving death threats.

The first bodies to be registered at one downtown morgue were unidentified. They all appear in the morgue's records as 'Mr. X.'

Thirty-eight-year-old Abdoulaye Coulibaly, who worked for a political nonprofit aligned with Ouattara, was in an open-air restaurant when soldiers surrounded it.

"They started to shoot and people started running," said his cousin, who pieced together what happened from other clients. Coulibaly was grabbed along with a colleague and put in the truck. "To this day, there is no trace of him ... We searched everywhere," said the cousin, Moussa Coulibaly.

The death squads made repeated trips to Abobo, a majority Muslim suburb that voted in large numbers for Ouattara. Gbagbo is an evangelical Christian who is accused of having purged Muslims from the armed forces.

The men came to Amidou Ouattara's house early in the morning.

"It was on the 13th of December. At 5:30 a.m. He was coming back from having done his morning prayer, and there were already two cars parked in front. A 4-by-4. And a Mercedes," said relative Mouriba Ouattara. "They surrounded him and put him in the Mercedes. It was gray. No plates.'"

"We looked everywhere. I went to the morgue at Yopougon. To the one in Anyama. Treichville. We turned over all the bodies," he said. "But we did not see his."

The United Nations estimates that more than 100 people have disappeared and at least 296 have been killed, based on calls to a U.N. hotline from family members. They cannot investigate because Gbagbo ordered the U.N. to leave the country after it certified Ouattara's victory.

The hotline also received reports of a mass grave containing between 60 to 80 bodies in the suburb of Ndottre. The U.N. twice tried to get to the site but was blocked by the army, and at one point military trucks chased the U.N. convoy at high speed. Witnesses later called to say they saw the bodies being moved to the morgue of Anyama, which the U.N. was not allowed to enter.

"The fact that we have been prevented twice from conducting a fact-finding mission in Ndottre and Anyama suggests that there may be some truth in the alleged existence of a mass grave in that area and/or deposit of 60 to 80 corpses at a mortuary in Anyama," wrote the head of the U.N.'s human rights division in an internal report leaked to the AP.

The AP attempted multiple times to gain access to the principal morgues, only to be refused entry. On one attempt, the reporter was told she would need an 'authorization letter,' but nobody could say from whom.

Workers at the morgues who agreed to speak were visibly panicked and would only do so away from their place of work. They said the bodies are quickly deteriorating because they have not yet been embalmed, a procedure done after the autopsy. One morgue director said so many corpses are arriving that they have created a 'salle de catastrophe,' or catastrophe room, to hold the overflow.

At one funeral home, a man in plainclothes interrupted a reporter's conversation with an employee to ask why she was there. He loitered until she left, appearing to confirm reports that the facilities are under government surveillance.

With hardly anybody allowed in and no bodies allowed out of the morgue, families are left to grieve however they can.

When the morgue took her husband's body away, Madoussou kept his blood-splattered sneakers. Unable to wash her husband's body, as is the custom before burial here, the widow washes and re-washes his shoes instead.

She has washed them so many times that they are as white as snow.

Campus Life

Eucon students bring home the bacon in MathCourt

Eucon International School staff joins students who participated in the MathCourt competition, held Saturday, Feb. 19, 2011, at the Chacha Junior High School. CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Eucon International School faculty and staff congratulate the students and parents of students who won in the recently concluded MathCourt competition, held Saturday, Feb. 19, 2011, at Chacha Junior High School.

Eucon students did well in the competition, with several getting first to third places.

Jia Yi "Linda" Zhou, a fourth grader who got first place both in Numbers and Algebra and second place in Geometry, said, "I am so happy that I got good results and I want to try to do better on Geometry next time."

Second grader Victoria Nicole Santos said she wants to join again next time and wants to win the regional competition.

"It was really an encouraging sight to see students excel in mathematics. MathCourt gives them incentive to study harder. Some of them expressed that though this event was harder and more challenging than the last one, they were all excited and some of them, like James Reyes and Chisa Kobayashi, expected to bag the first prize. Surely, that is the aim of those who study and prepare well," said the school in a statement.

Matthew Millo said he was so excited and happy after getting first place in Numbers.

"It's challenging," said Juancho Siasoyco who got first place in Algebra and second place in Numbers.

Si Ting "Aaron" Zhou, who won first place both in Numbers and Geometry and second place in Algebra, said that he was so happy for winning consistently since joining the competition. This was his second time.

Chisa Kobayashi and Caleb Yan expressed their gratefulness to their teacher, Thess Miral, for helping them study and prepare for these competitions.

"The entire administration and staff are really grateful for trainings like this for our students. We acknowledge the effort of the MathCourt organizers, the parents, teachers, and students (winners and non-winners). We give the honor and praise to almighty God who is the giver of all gifts," said the school statement. ***(PR)***

EUCON'S WINNERS' LIST

The following Eucon International School students brought home the bacon:

1ST GRADE
Algebra
Ken Cordero – 2nd place
Pauline Santos – 2nd place
Joy Yan – 2nd Place

Geometry/ Measurement
Pauline Santos – 2nd Place
Joy Yan

Numbers
Joy Yan – 3rd Place

2ND GRADE
Algebra
Victoria Nicole Santos – 2nd Place
Si Ting "Aaron" Zhou – 2nd Place
Elijah Villarmero – 3rd Place

Numbers
Victoria Nicole Santos - 1st Place
Si Ting "Aaron" Zhou – 1st Place
Allan Mikhael Matutino – 3rd Place

Geometry/Measurement
Victoria Nicole Santos – 1st Place
Si Ting "Aaron" Zhou – 1st Place
Caleb Yan -1st Place
Chisa Kobayashi – 1st Place
Allan Mikhael Matutino – 2nd Place
Jin Seok Park – 2nd Place

3RD GRADE
Numbers
James Reyes – 1st place
Matthew Millo – 1st place
Juancho Philippe Siasoyco – 2nd Place
Matthew Robert Ong – 3rd Place
Lance David Bartolome – 4th Place

Algebra
Juancho Philippe Siasoyco – 1st Place
Ao Feng Zheng – 2nd Place
James Reyes – 2nd place
Lance David Bartolome – 3rd Place

Geometry/Measurement
James Reyes – 2nd Place

4TH GRADE
Numbers
Jia Yi "Linda" Zhou – 1st Place
Danielle Pineda – 3rd Place

Algebra
Jia Yi "Linda" Zhou – 1st Place
Danielle Pineda – 3rd place

Geometry/Measurement
Danielle Pineda – 1st Place
Jia Yi "Linda" Zhou – 2nd Place

5TH GRADE
Geometry/Measurement
Tae Yeon Kim – 3rd Place

Joshua Generation students shine at PGFC

Congratulations to all PGFC participants of Joshua Generation International Academy! Thank you parents for your untiring support and dedication to your children.

- **Kinder 3**- Humorous Interpretation, **1st Place:** Akysha Castro
- **Kinder 4**- Choral Speaking, 1st Place: Hana Rhys L. Diaz, Elishah Mae P. Valdez, Betty C. Matson, Jenny Ann Santos
- **Dramatic Interpretation, 5th Place:** Betty C. Matson
- **Kinder 5**- Choral Speaking, 1st Place: Wendelle Lhiza Posadas, John Lawrence Apit, Dianna Catigan, Ma. Isabelle Bayani, Hannah Colleen Gaspar
- **Duo**- 1st Place: John Lawrence Apit, Wendelle Lhiza Posadas
- **1st and 2nd Grade, Duo B, 1st Place:** Isaiah Neil Bayani, Diane Kelly Bautista
- **Readers' Forum, 1st Place:** Isaiah Neil Bautista, Richard Waldo, Kaito Nishimura
- **Readers' Forum C, 2nd Place:** Bernard Angelo Marcelo
- **Readers' Forum Master B, 2nd Place:** Diane Kelly Bautista
- **Readers' Forum B, 3rd Place:** Jennalyn Rose Travilla
- **Dramatic Interpretation, 3rd Place:** Bernard Angelo Marcelo
- **3rd Grade, Readers' Forum, 1st Place:** Richard Enrico Baleares
- **Readers' Forum, 2nd Place:** Naomi Jen Armas, Christine Zamantha Icmat
- **Choral Speaking, 3rd Place:** Jizelle Maliwat, Crystal Fiona Manipon, Christine Zamantha Icmat
- **Dramatic Interpretation:** Naomi Jen Armas, 3rd Place, Richard Balearas, 5th Place

Thank you also to our dedicated teachers and coaches: Rency H. Castro, Zenaida Marcelo, Faith Nalam, Jocelyn Bonsilao.

Enrollment for school year 2011-2012 will start on March 15, 2011.

Brilliant Star students whip up culinary delights

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO
First place finishers: Isabella Loan, Dychhya Bhujel, and Shea Hartig with their Island Smoothie.

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO
Second place: Ms. Rita's Class with banana and papaya muffins.

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO
Most colorful recipe: Jun You, Puti'on Camacho, Maiana Castro with "fruits of the rainbow."

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO
Healthiest recipe: Kian Khorram, Mark Arangorin, Katlyn Revilla with fruit kebab.

On Valentine's Day, elementary and primary students of the Brilliant Star Montessori School joined the first ever Brilliant Star Recipe Contest.

Ms. Rita's class surprised the judges with banana and papaya muffins. Ms. Kamweli's class entered fruit kebabs and wowed the crowd with banana and papaya scones topped with papaya jam. Ms. Keiko's class managed to whip up three recipes: an island smoothie, a "fruits of the rainbow" platter, and smoothie ice pops.

The two top finishers will be reviewed by a panel that selects finalists for the 2011 Islandwide Recipe Contest.

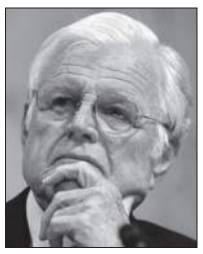
Life & Style

'61 memo claims Ted Kennedy sought to rent brothel

WASHINGTON (AP)—An FBI file contends that a young Edward M. Kennedy arranged to rent a brothel for a night while visiting Chile in 1961, a year before he was elected to the Senate.

The previously redacted State Department memo, dated Dec. 28, 1961, was released by Judicial Watch, a Washington-based organization that said it obtained it through a Freedom of Information lawsuit.

According to the memo, the Massachusetts Democrat made arrangements to rent the brothel "for an entire night" in Santiago earlier in 1961. "Kennedy allegedly invited one of the Embassy chauffeurs to participate in the night's activities," according to the memo.


Kennedy

One State Department official described Kennedy as "pompous and a spoiled brat," according to the memo. Kennedy was making a fact-finding trip to several Latin American countries. "Kennedy met with a number of individuals known to have communist sympathies," the memo said.

Kennedy was a 29-year-old assistant district attorney in Boston at the time of the trip. He was elected to the Senate in 1962 and served more than four decades until his death in 2009.

Kennedy's family members had no immediate reaction to the release of the memo.

The documents from Judicial Watch provide no indication of the source of the allegations or whether the FBI believed the allegations were true. Judicial Watch said it waged a "tough" fight with the Obama administration for access to the previously secret documents.

Last June the FBI released more than 2,300 pages of documents from Kennedy's file, many of them containing information about various death threats against Kennedy and his family. Some of the material was redacted by the FBI.

Some of the threats prompted investigations, some resulted in warnings to Kennedy or local law enforcement authorities. There is no indication any attempts were carried out.

Kennedy family members were given a chance to review and to raise objections to the documents before they were released last June. The FBI has additional documents on threats to Kennedy, possibly thousands more pages, that it plans to make public once the agency finishes reviewing them.

The family has no legal power to keep information withheld, the FBI has said, but the bureau does consider privacy concerns on a case-by-case basis.

Buckles, last WWI doughboy, dies at 110 in W.Va.

MORGANTOWN, W.Va. (AP)—He didn't seek the spotlight, but when Frank Buckles outlived every other American who'd served in World War I, he became what his biographer called "the humble patriot" and final torchbearer for the memory of that fading conflict.

AP
In a May 26, 2008 file photo Frank Buckles receives an American flag during Memorial Day activities at the National World War I Museum in Kansas City, Mo.

Buckles enlisted in World War I at 16 after lying about his age. He died Sunday on his farm in Charles Town, nearly a month after his 110th birthday. He had devoted the last years of his life to campaigning for greater recognition for his former comrades, prodding politicians to support a national memorial in Washington and working with friend and family spokesman David DeJonge on a biography.

"We were always asking ourselves: How can we represent this story to the world?" DeJonge said Monday. "How can we make sure World War I isn't forgotten."

Buckles asked his daughter, Susannah Flanagan, about progress toward a national memorial every week, sometimes daily.

"He was sad it's not completed," DeJonge said. "It's a simple straightforward thing to do, to honor Americans."

When asked in February 2008 how it felt to be the last survivor, Buckles said simply, "I realized that somebody had to be, and it was me."

Only two known veterans remain, according to the Order of the First World War, a Florida group whose members are descendants of WWI veterans and include Buckles' daughter. The survivors are Florence Green in Britain and Claude Choules in Australia, said Robert Carroon, the group's senior vice commander. Choules, who served in Britain's Royal Navy, was born in that country but now lives in Australia.

Green turned 110 on Feb. 19, and Choules turns 110 in March, he said.

Born in Missouri in 1901 and raised in Oklahoma, Buckles visited a string of military recruiters after the United States in April 1917 entered what was called "the war to end all wars." He was repeatedly rejected before convincing an Army captain he was 18.

More than 4.7 million people joined the U.S. military from 1917-18. By 2007, only three survived. Buckles went to Washington that year to serve as grand marshal of the national Memorial Day parade.

Unlike Buckles, the other two survivors were still in basic training in the United States when the war ended, and they did not make it overseas. When they died in late 2007 and 2008, Buckles became the last so-called doughboy—and a soft-spoken celebrity.

He got fan mail almost every day, DeJonge said, and had enough birthday cards to fill several bushel baskets.

DeJonge had visited Buckles late last week and was driving back to Michigan with about 5,000 letters to organize and answer when he got the call telling him his friend had died.

"The letters are so heartfelt," he said. "Each night, Susannah would go in and sit at Papa's bedside and read them to Frank. That kept him going."

Buckles had been battling colds and other minor ailments this winter, but he was not ill at the time of his death.

The day before he died was warm, DeJonge said, and he spent three hours sitting in the sunshine on the porch of his farmhouse, talking with his daughter.

She worked diligently to keep Buckles in his own home, even though it exhausted his life savings. DeJonge said home health nurses and other medical care cost about $120,000 a year.

Details for services and arrangements will be announced later this week, but the family is planning a burial in Arlington National Cemetery. In 2008, friends persuaded the federal government to make an exception to its rules for who can be interred there.

President Barack Obama ordered that the day Buckles is buried that all U.S. flags on official buildings be lowered to half-staff.

Buckles had already been eligible to have his cremated remains housed at the cemetery. Burial, however, normally requires meeting several criteria, including earning one of five medals, such as a Purple Heart.

Buckles never saw combat but once joked, "Didn't I make every effort?"

U.S. Rep. Shelley Moore Capito and the rest of West Virginia's congressional delegation were also working Monday on a plan to allow Buckles to lie in repose in the rotunda of the U.S. Capitol.

According to the Architect of the Capitol's website, the last person to do so was President Gerald Ford.

The honor is reserved mostly for elected and military officials, but others have included civil rights activist Rosa Parks and unknown soldiers from both World Wars and the Korean War.

Sen. Jay Rockefeller called Buckles "a wonderfully plain-spoken man and an icon for the World War I generation" and said he will continue fighting for the memorial Buckles wanted.

Jane Russell, star of '40s and '50s films, dies

AP
In this file handout photo, Jane Russell is shown in a scene from the movie "The Outlaw."

LOS ANGELES (AP)—Jane Russell, the busty brunette who shot to fame as the sexy star of Howard Hughes' 1941 Western "The Outlaw," died Monday of respiratory failure, her family said. She was 89.

Although Russell largely retired from Hollywood after her final film, 1970's "Darker Than Amber," she had remained active in her church, with charitable organizations and with a local singing group until her health began to decline just a couple weeks ago, said her daughter-in-law, Etta Waterfield. She died at her home in Santa Maria.

"She always said I'm going to die in the saddle, I'm not going to sit at home and become an old woman," Waterfield told The Associated Press. "And that's exactly what she did, she died in the saddle."

Hughes, the eccentric billionaire, put her onto the path to stardom when he cast her in "The Outlaw," a film he fought with censors for nearly a decade to get into wide release.

With her sultry look and glowing sexuality, Russell became a star before she was ever seen by a wide movie audience. The Hughes publicity mill ground out photos of the beauty in low-cut costumes and swim suits, and she became famous, especially as a pinup for World War II GIs.

Then in 1948 she starred opposite Bob Hope in the box-office hit, "The Paleface," a comedy-western in which Russell was tough-but-sexy Calamity Jane to Hope's cowardly dentist.

Although her look and her hourglass figure made her the subject of numerous nightclub jokes, unlike Marilyn Monroe, Rita Hayworth and other pinup queens of the era, Russell was untouched by scandal in her personal life. During her Hollywood career she was married to star UCLA and pro football quarterback Bob Waterfield.

"The Outlaw," although it established her reputation, was beset with trouble from the beginning. Director Howard Hawks, one of Hollywood's most eminent and autocratic filmmakers, rankled under producer Hughes' constant suggestions and finally walked out.

"Hughes directed the whole picture—for nine bloody months!" Russell said in 1999.

The film's rambling, fictional plot featured Russell as a friend of Billy the Kid as he tussles with Doc Holliday and Sheriff Pat Garrett.

It had scattered brief runs in the 1940s, earning scathing reviews. The Los Angeles Times called it "one of the weirdest Western pictures that ever unreeled before the public."

But Hughes made sure no one overlooked his No. 1 star. The designer of the famous "Spruce Goose" airplane used his engineering skills to make Russell a special bra (which she said she never wore) and he bought the ailing RKO film studio to turn it into a vehicle for her.

‘Men’ crew to be paid; Sheen calls it ‘a start’

LOS ANGELES (AP)—Warner Bros. Television agreed Monday to pay the crew of “Two and a Half Men” for half of the eight episodes of TV’s top-rated comedy that were canceled by producers upset about the off-screen antics of star Charlie Sheen.

The troubled star called the agreement a “start” in his escalating battle against the show’s producers.

“Clearly my efforts are paying off,” Sheen said in a phone interview with The Associated Press. “I won’t sleep until I get all eight.”

Warner Bros. last week canceled the remaining episodes of this season of “Men,” citing Sheen’s public behavior and negative comments about executive producer Chuck Lorre.

The troubled actor dominated the entertainment media Monday with threats of a lawsuit, two riveting morning show interviews and a rambling live stream on an Internet website.

By midday, his veteran publicist had quit.

In Sheen’s interviews with ABC’s “Good Morning America” and NBC’s “Today” show, he boasted about his “epic” partying, said he’s fueled by “violent hatred” of his bosses, claimed to have kicked drugs at home in his “Sober Valley Lodge” and demanded $3 million an episode to return to work.

Those expecting Sheen to go silent at some point will likely be disappointed. Cameras crews were seen throughout the afternoon entering the gated community where Sheen lives.

“The more he does, the more insane he looks,” said Michele Cohen, a technical editor from Cary, N.C., an occasional viewer of the CBS sitcom who has been watching the offstage drama with interest.

AP

In this photo provided by ABC News, Andrea Canning interviews Charlie Sheen Saturday, Feb. 26, 2011, in Los Angeles for a Special Edition of 20/20 to be aired Tuesday.

Warner Bros. spokesman Paul McGuire confirmed the crew payments but denied that Sheen’s war of words against the studio and series producers prompted the move. “False,” McGuire said of Sheen’s claim of credit.

Sheen said he’s not concerned with his own sizable paychecks at the moment, which are reportedly worth $1.8 million per episode. “I don’t care about me right now,” he told the AP.

Asked about reimbursements for fellow series actors Jon Cryer and Angus T. Jones, Sheen said, “They’re next.”

Sheen’s dueling interview with morning news shows managed to upstage the post-show buzz for the Oscars.

However, what may be amusement for fans is serious business in Hollywood. There’s a strong likelihood that “Two and a Half Men” will never be back, putting fellow cast and crew members out of work and costing producers Warner Bros. Television tens of millions of dollars.

“I’m supposed to be out there all humble and asking for my job,” Sheen said during an interview at his home with Mike Walters that was streamed live on TMZ.com. “No, I don’t do that. I don’t understand what I did wrong except live a life that everyone is jealous of.”

Sheen’s publicist, Stan Rosenfield, resigned shortly after the TMZ interview. Rosenfield has been with Sheen through three hospitalizations in three months related to the star’s wild behavior.

In the interview, Sheen implied that Rosenfield had lied to the media by saying he had been hospitalized for an allergic reaction after trashing a room in New York’s Plaza Hotel.

“I have worked with Charlie Sheen for a long time and I care about him very much,” Rosenfield said in a statement. “However, at this time, I’m unable to work effectively as his publicist and have respectfully resigned.”

Both the ABC and NBC morning shows carried excerpts of Sheen interviews conducted over the weekend, and promised more on Tuesday. ABC aired the interview excerpts before even wrapping up the Academy Awards results.

The New York Post’s front page blared: “Sue & a Half Men,” with Oscar coverage a mere side of the page.

Sheen told NBC interviewer Jeff Rossen that he’s spent years trying to be the “nice guy” on his show and get along with everybody, and now that’s over.

“I’m tired of pretending I’m not special,” he said. “I’m tired of pretending I’m not a total bitchin’ rock star from Mars.”

Rossen appeared startled when Sheen said he wanted to be paid $3 million an episode to return to the show. He’s already one of the highest-paid actors on television.

“You want a raise?” Rossen asked.

Replied Sheen: “Yeah, look what they put me through.”

On ABC, Sheen said to correspondent Andrea Canning that he planned to sue his bosses.

“Wouldn’t you?” he said. “I’ve got a whole family to support and love. People beyond me are relying on that. I’m here to collect. They’re going to lose. They’re going to lose in a courtroom, so I would recommend that they settle out of court.”

Weinsteins’ Oscar mastery resurfaces post-’Avatar’

LOS ANGELES (AP)—Without the colossus “Avatar” in the mix, the Weinstein brothers resumed weaving their spell over the Oscar awards season and spinning critical acclaim into box office gold.

“The King’s Speech” reaped the biggest benefit from ticket sales among the 10 contenders for best picture—$57 million—since it garnered 12 nominations a month ago.

Bob and Harvey Weinstein, the backers of the movie through The Weinstein Co., previously rode nominations for “The English Patient” to a global gross of $232 million in 1997 as the heads of Miramax, where they pulled in 17 best picture nominations and four wins.

This year, the tale of a stuttering English monarch became the first best picture they have won as heads of The Weinstein Co. since starting it in 2005, but it fit a pattern they have well helped establish.

The Oscars proved again that good taste has its rewards.

Released in just four theater locations in late November, “The King’s Speech” grew through critical acclaim and smaller awards to play in 1,680 locations in the U.S. and Canada on Jan. 21, four days before the Oscar nominations. The studio bumped the count to 2,557 immediately after.

The movie’s take nearly doubled, rising from $58 million in ticket sales to $115 million through the weekend of the Oscars over a period in a movie’s life that usually finds box office receipts dwindling quickly. It’s now made $221 million in theaters worldwide.

“You’ve got to give them credit,” said Tom Sherak, president of the Academy of Motion Picture Arts and Sciences. “Once something catches on with both the critics and word of mouth, it starts to morph. ... They’re good at it.”

The Weinsteins’ campaign got another boost on Friday, when the Motion Picture Association of America’s ratings board granted a more tame PG-13 rating to an alternate version of “The King’s Speech,” in which many of the F-bombs have been muted. The original got an R rating for the multiple swears unleashed by King George VI, played by Colin Firth, while he struggles to overcome his speech problem.

AP

In this film publicity image released by The Weinstein Company, Collin Firth, left, and Geoffrey Rush are shown in a scene from, “The King’s Speech.”

The rating means more families will consider taking their children to see it, substantially widening the audience. The decision was unprecedented in the ratings system’s 43-year history because the board granted a waiver of a 90-day waiting period meant to prevent confusion in the marketplace.

The ruling allows the studio to immediately replace the R-rated version with the PG-13 version as long as it does so in one fell swoop.

Oddly, some viewers will end up seeing a movie that is slightly different from the one the Academy members voted on.

The edit irked Firth, who told reporters backstage he didn’t support the change—even for the sake of children.

“You know, it does distress me to hear that language bawled in the ears of my kids. So I don’t take that stuff lightly. But the context of this film could not be more edifying, more appropriate,” he said. “It’s about a man trying to free himself through the use of forbidden words ... So I think the film should stand as it is.”

Overall, the Oscar bump this year was in line with recent years.

The 10 nominees for best picture this year hauled in $131 million between the nominations and the weekend of the broadcast this year, compared to $156 million last year, when “Avatar” was nominated for best picture, although it didn’t win. (All but $32 million of last year’s bump fed the James Cameron spectacle.)

In 2008, when “Slumdog Millionaire” won, the five best picture nominees pulled in $106 million from the nominations to the weekend of the show.

Sugar Ray Leonard to hoof it on 'Dancing' series

LOS ANGELES (AP)—A boxing great, a model who survived an Indian Ocean tsunami and a grown-up "Karate Kid" will be hoofing it on the 12th season of "Dancing with the Stars."

Welterweight champ Sugar Ray Leonard, model Petra Nemcova and Ralph Macchio of the hit 1984 karate movie will be among 11 celebrity contestants when the ABC show returns March 21.

The cast was announced Monday by "Dancing" hosts Tom Bergeron and Brooke Burke in segments that aired during an episode of ABC's "The Bachelor."

"Forget the rumors. The moment of truth has arrived!" Bergeron exclaimed.

Also hitting the dance floor will be Kirstie Alley; Pittsburgh Steelers wide receiver Hines Ward; professional wrestler Chris Jericho; "Loveline" radio show co-host Mike Catherwood; one-time rap prodigy Romeo (former Lil' Romeo); Chelsea Kane of Disney Channel's "Jonas"; talk show host Wendy Williams and reality star Kendra Wilkinson.

AP

In this July 10, 2010 file photo, former professional boxer Sugar Ray Leonard arrives at the premiere of the musical feature film "Standing Ovation" in Universal City, Calif.

The star-professional dancer pairings will be announced Wednesday.

Last season's champ was "Dirty Dancing" actress Jennifer Grey, who was paired with dancer Derek Hough.

The show also featured former Alaska Gov. Sarah Palin's daughter, Bristol, as a contestant and became something of a political lightning rod because of the family connection.

O'Donnell won't be on 'Dancing with the Stars'

WILMINGTON, Del. (AP)—Ex-Delaware Senate candidate Christine O'Donnell will not be a contestant on TV's "Dancing with the Stars."

The contestants were announced Monday night near the end of "The Bachelor" on ABC. O'Donnell was not among the celebrities, who will include Sugar Ray Leonard, Ralph Macchio, Hines Ward and Kirstie Alley. The show will return March 21.

O'Donnell said last week that she had been invited to compete on the 12th season of the show. But the Republican and tea party favorite said she wasn't sure she should accept because she has two left feet and a book about politics to complete.

O'Donnell said on her website Monday night she was honored to be invited but that she would instead work on her book.

Michael Jackson judge says he might delay trial of doctor

LOS ANGELES (AP)—The judge handling the involuntary manslaughter case against Michael Jackson's doctor indicated Monday he might delay the trial in what would be a defeat for defense lawyers anxious to get on with the proceedings.

"I am extremely distressed about the state of this case and whether the defense is prepared for trial and its obligations to Dr. Murray," Superior Court Judge Michael Pastor said.

Prosecutors urged the judge to delay the scheduled March 24 start of jury selection, and Pastor asked them to present case law on the matter Wednesday, when he ordered defendant Conrad Murray to appear in court.

The doctor, who has pleaded not guilty, has been absent from the past few hearings under a waiver that allowed him to continue working at his clinics in Texas and Nevada.

Murray's medical license to practice in California has been suspended by Pastor. Defense attorney J. Michael Flanagan told the judge the urgency of getting to trial involves Murray's fear that if it takes too long, Texas and Nevada will lift his medical license as well.

Flanagan also suggested that Murray is running out of money to fund his defense.

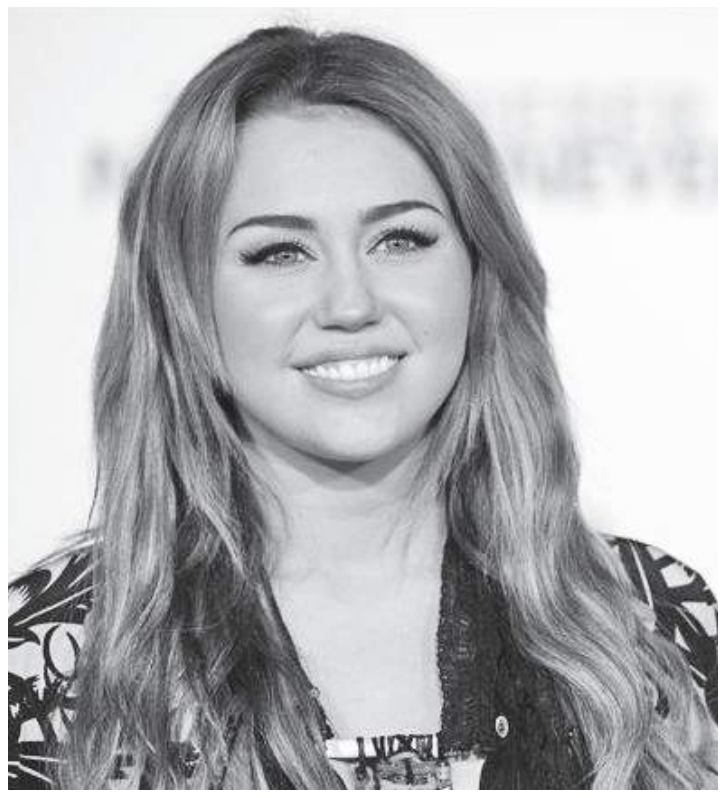
"We need to go to trial right away," he said. "We don't have the budget that would let us draw this out."

Flanagan acknowledged, "We are still preparing this case," but said it was normal for evidence to develop even after the trial has begun. "We will be ready for trial March 24," Flanagan said. "We are not ready today."

Prosecutors objected that they are entitled to receive discovery of defense evidence 30 days before trial starts, a deadline which has already passed. Deputy District Attorney Deborah Brazil said she has received no reports from defense experts or any statements from proposed defense witnesses.

Flanagan angrily complained that the prosecution has not met all of its discovery obligations either.

The judge ordered Brazil and Deputy District Attorney David Walgren to turn over clean digital photos from Jackson's autopsy as well as all of the surveillance tapes recorded at his Bel Air home on June 25, 2009, the day he died of an overdose of the anesthetic propofol and other sedatives.



AP

In this Feb. 8, 2011 file photo, Miley Cyrus arrives at the premiere of the documentary film "Justin Bieber: Never Say Never," in Los Angeles.

Miley to appear on 'SNL' as guest host

NEW YORK (AP)—NBC says Miley Cyrus will be making her first appearance as guest host of "Saturday Night Live" this week.

The network said Monday that the multiplatinum-selling singer will be joined by musical guests The Strokes.

A week later on March 12, Zach Galifianakis (ga-lih-fih-NA'-kihs) makes his return visit to "SNL" as guest host with musical guest Jessie J.

Galifianakis stars on the HBO comedy series "Bored to Death." He has just finished filming "The Hangover 2."

"Saturday Night Live" airs Saturdays on NBC at 11:30 p.m. Eastern.

ENTERTAINMENT TIDBITS

Galliano faces anti-Semitism accusations in Paris

PARIS (AP)—John Galliano arrived Monday at a Paris police station to face accusations that he made illegal anti-Semitic slurs, hours after a video emerged of the famed fashion designer praising Adolf Hitler. The Gibraltar-born designer, wearing a wide-brimmed black hat, made no comment to reporters as he entered to face claims by a couple that he made an anti-Semitic remark during a dispute at a trendy Paris cafe. French officials said a hospital test showed Galliano had 1.1 milligrams of alcohol per liter of blood, more than twice the legal limit to drive in France, after the incident Thursday as he sat alone sipping a mojito. Christian Dior has suspended Galliano, its creative director, pending an investigation, citing its "zero-tolerance" policy on anti-Semitism. The fashion house is scheduled to present its fall-winter 2011-2012 ready-to-wear show on Friday as part of Paris fashion week. In the wake of media reports on the incident, another woman came forward Saturday to police accusing Galliano of similar anti-Semitic insults at her in October at the same restaurant—La Perle, in the Marais district.

Danny Glover urges solidarity for Ind. protesters

INDIANAPOLIS (AP)—Actor and activist Danny Glover has urged labor union members protesting at the Indiana Statehouse to stand in solidarity against what he called an organized campaign attacking American workers. Several hundred union members cheered Monday as the star of the "Lethal Weapon" action movies told the protesters they are part of a nationwide battle to stop a "vicious attack" to take more from the middle class. The protesters responded to other speakers with chants such as "We will not be moved!" Democratic legislators have been boycotting the House since last week to prevent a vote on a slate of GOP-backed proposals. Thousands of union members last week filled Statehouse halls to protest Republican efforts to change legislation governing education and to curtail teachers' rights.

Neighbors' nightly water show is beginning to make waves

By ABIGAIL VAN BUREN
FROM UNIVERSAL PRESS SYNDICATE

DearAbby

DEAR ABBY: My husband and I moved into our first home two years ago. A few months after that, our lives got even better with the addition of our son.

After living here for a while, we noticed that the neighbors behind us have a large window in their shower, and they tend to take a lot of nighttime showers. (I'm sure you can see where this is heading.) For a long time, we chose to ignore it, but my motherly instincts are getting the better of me now. I can't help thinking of the day when my son is old enough to realize what he's seeing.

My husband and I have been debating whether to tell our neighbors we can see them showering. Sometimes they get pretty carried away in there. Should I tell them we can see everything? And if so, how do I go about it without causing them to be embarrassed, ashamed or angry?

GETTING AN EYEFUL IN OHIO

DEAR GETTING AN EYEFUL: Another shower letter! Write your neighbors a polite note telling them there is a clear view into their shower when their lights are on at night. Explain that before your son was born this was not of concern to you, but now that you have a small child, you would appreciate it if they would work with you on a solution to this problem. They may not be aware they've been putting on an X-rated show.

■ ■ ■ ■

DEAR ABBY: I have worked in the same office for more than a decade. Last year I returned to school in an effort to finally get into a field where I can earn more money. I will graduate next spring and, hopefully, will begin a new career.

I need your advice about how to approach my boss when the time comes. This is a very small office and, while I wouldn't call us friends, we probably have a closer relationship than most people in a larger office would have. Any thoughts on the best way to approach this?

GIVING NOTICE ON THE EAST COAST

DEAR GIVING NOTICE: Because you have been in school for the length of time you have, your announcement will probably not come as much of a surprise to your employer. However, before you give notice, be sure you have another job in place. When you do speak to your employer, thank him or her for your job. Explain that you are ready to start in your new field and offer to spend a few weeks training your replacement to make any transition easier.

■ ■ ■ ■

DEAR ABBY: My husband recently had major surgery. I wanted to call a few close friends and family members beforehand to let them know. When I told my husband, we had an argument. He felt they would feel obligated to respond. I felt it would be nice for both of us to have support and that they would want to know. As it turned out, I made some calls and we did receive some much-needed support. Was I wrong to do this? (My husband wants your opinion on the matter.)

GRATEFUL FOR HELPING HANDS IN COLORADO

DEAR GRATEFUL: The prospect of major surgery can be frightening—both for the patient and the spouse. Your husband may have preferred to downplay it because he was afraid broadcasting it was displaying weakness. You obviously found the prospect traumatic and didn't want to be alone at that time. Was it wrong to ask for help? I don't think so. My advice to your husband is to lighten up and get well soon.

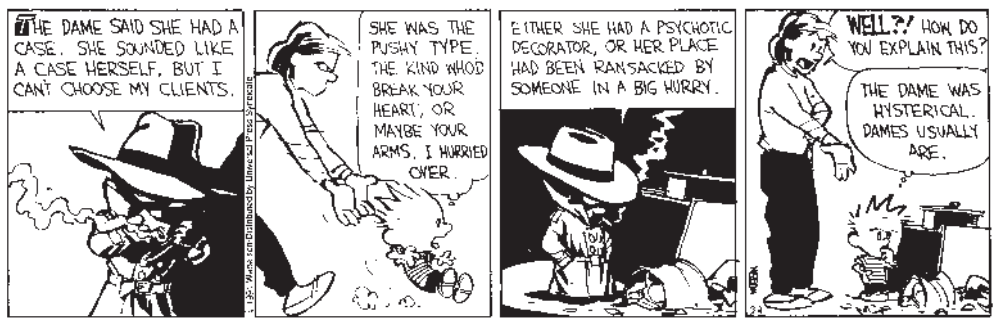
Dear Abby is written by Abigail Van Buren, also known as Jeanne Phillips, and was founded by her mother, Pauline Phillips. Write Dear Abby at www.DearAbby.com or P.O. Box 69440, Los Angeles, CA 90069.

To order "How to Write Letters for All Occasions," send a business-sized, self-addressed envelope, plus check or money order for $6 (U.S. funds) to: Dear Abby—Letter Booklet, P.O. Box 447, Mount Morris, IL 61054-0447. (Postage is included in the price.)

Pastimes

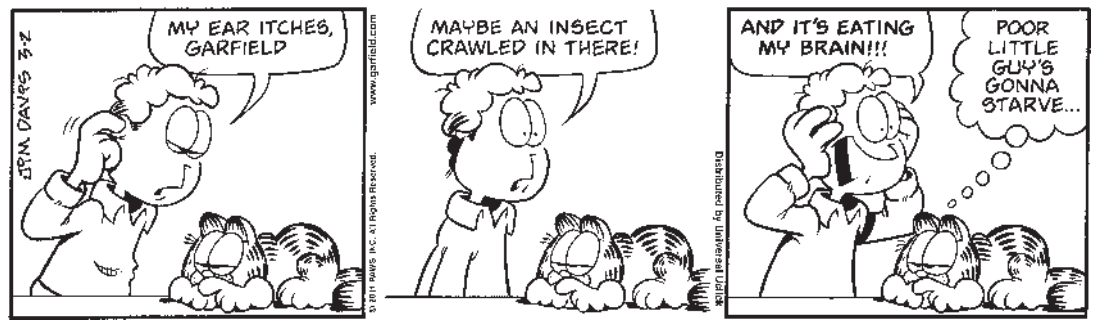
Calvin and Hobbes

By Bill Waterson


THE DAME SAID SHE HAD A CASE. SHE SOUNDED LIKE A CASE HERSELF, BUT I CAN'T CHOOSE MY CLIENTS.
SHE WAS THE PUSHY TYPE. THE KIND WHO'D BREAK YOUR HEART, OR MAYBE YOUR ARMS, I HURRIED OVER.
EITHER SHE HAD A PSYCHOTIC DECORATOR, OR HER PLACE HAD BEEN RANSACKED BY SOMEONE IN A BIG HURRY.
WELL?! HOW DO YOU EXPLAIN THIS?
THE DAME WAS HYSTERICAL. DAMES USUALLY ARE.

Garfield®

By Jim Davis



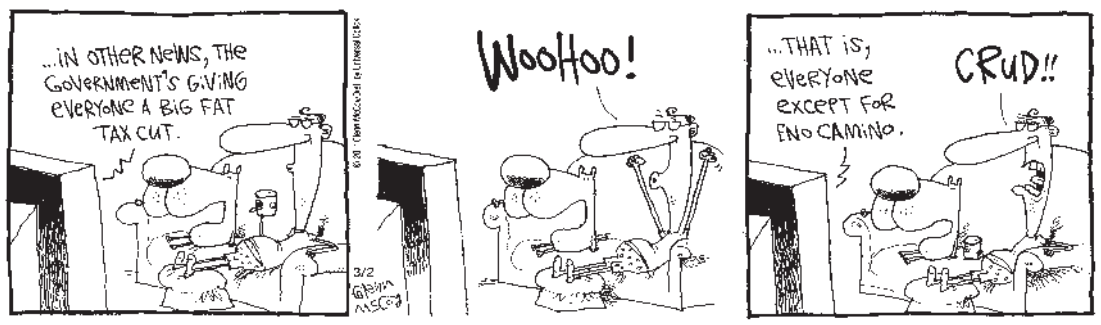
Adam@home

By Bryan Basset

KNOCK IT OFF, ADAM. GETTING REVENGE ON A BARBER FOR A BAD HAIRCUT IS RIDICULOUS.
IF I LET HIM DO TO ANOTHER PERSON WHAT HE DID TO ME, I COULDN'T LIVE WITH MYSELF.
ADAM, YOU COULD GET ARRESTED. PLEASE DON'T DO THIS.
I MUST. THIS IS ABOUT NOBILITY, PRIDE AND STRENGTH OF CHARACTER.
NOW WHERE DID I PUT MY OVERSIZED NOVELTY DOG POOPS?

The Duplex

By Glenn McCoy



CROSSWORD

By Eugene Sheffer

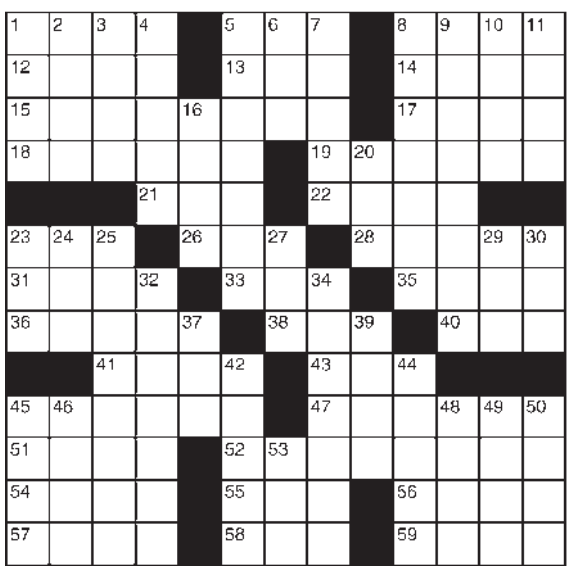
ACROSS
1 Seeks answers
5 Couric's network
8 "Zounds!"
12 Beehive State
13 Chop
14 Unchanged
15 Bogart-Bacall movie
17 Animal's stomach
18 Swimsuit brand
19 Red-orange fish
21 Skillet
22 Old fogy
23 Actress Zadora
26 Edge
28 Card-game rulebook
31 Frizzy coiffure
33 Taxi
35 Insult
36 Highway warnings
38 Go down slightly
40 Early bird?
41 Hasn't paid yet
43 "Great!"
45 Rent payer
47 Sedative
51 Winged
52 Snail, on a French menu
54 Tennyson poem
55 Alias abbr.
56 Gator's kin
57 Picnic invaders
58 Wire measure
59 "Thirty days — ..."

DOWN
1 Diving birds
2 Staircase component
3 Comic Danny
4 Drag (Var.)
5 Habitual
6 Plead
7 Scabbard contents
8 Portuguese pre-euro money
9 Ugly-faced water-spout
10 Asian nursemaid
11 Moist in the morn
16 Hebrew month
20 "— -la-la!"
23 Joad and Kettle
24 "— Were King"
25 Any of Jason's crew
27 Frenzied
29 Haul
30 Work unit
32 Advancing
34 Lens created by Ben Franklin
37 D.C. VIP
39 Hemingway nickname
42 Fulton's power source
44 Canoe material
45 Author Janowitz
46 Verve
48 Taj Mahal city
49 Tugboat noise
50 Engrave, in a way
53 Schuss

Solution time: 21 mins.

S	M	O	G	■	S	L	Y	■	L	A	M	B
I	O	T	A	■	C	I	A	■	O	I	I	O
G	R	I	D	L	O	C	K	■	C	O	N	N
H	F	S	■	A	T	F	■	S	K	F	I	N
■	■	■	D	D	T	■	B	U	S	■	■	■
E	V	E	R	Y	■	J	A	M	M	I	C	S
M	A	L	E	■	H	E	D	■	I	D	L	E
U	N	F	A	Z	E	D	■	S	T	O	K	E
■	■	■	D	O	Z	■	H	A	H	■	■	■
S	H	A	L	E	■	G	A	L	■	B	Y	E
T	Y	R	O	■	L	O	C	K	H	E	E	D
E	P	I	C	■	E	W	E	■	R	E	A	D
W	E	A	K	■	I	N	D	■	S	P	R	Y

Yesterday's answer 3-2



STUMPED? For answers to today's crossword, call **1-900-226-5955**! 99¢ per minute, touch-tone/rotary phones. (18+ only.) A King Features service, NYC.

CELEBRITIES BORN ON THIS DAY: Bryce Dallas Howard, 30; Daniel Craig, 34; Jon Bon Jovi, 49; Lou Reed, 69

Happy Birthday: Surprise everyone by keeping what you are working toward to yourself until you have something spectacular to present. Underestimating what's required can be expected, so be willing to par down your expectations while concentrating on ways to give whatever you do an unusual spin. Less can be more if done exquisitely. Your numbers are 1, 6, 10, 28, 35, 39, 46

ARIES (*March 21-April 19*): Concentrate on working as a team player. Greater stability will be established if you are committed to whatever project you are working on. By offering your time, services or listening to the concerns being expressed, you will enhance an important partnership. ✪✪✪✪

TAURUS (*April 20-May 20*): Don't make a foolish mistake by letting your emotions come between you and what you want. Everything is falling into place. All you have to do is what's expected of you. It's up to you to show your worth. ✪✪

GEMINI (*May 21-June 20*): Follow your heart, your dreams and your intuition. Take on a little extra work and you'll send a positive message to your boss, clients or colleagues. Pick and choose what you take on. Actions speak louder than words. ✪✪✪✪✪

CANCER (*June 21-July 22*): You will learn a lot from someone you consider a doer. If you don't try to fit too much into one day or one project, you will do a good job. A couple of personal changes will alter not only your outlook but your status. ✪✪✪

LEO (*July 23-Aug. 22*): You can make a big splash with someone who interests you personally or professionally. A partnership can ease your stress and help stabilize your life financially and emotionally. Make alterations to your home environment. ✪✪✪

VIRGO (*Aug. 23-Sept. 22*): Put a little pressure on someone you feel owes you. Call in favors and take action regarding a new position or job you want. Do something you've wanted to do for a long time that will boost your confidence and improve your attitude. ✪✪✪

LIBRA (*Sept. 23-Oct. 22*): Things are looking up both personally and professionally. You will have greater insight into what others want from you and can, therefore, deliver the goods. The chance to enhance your romantic life is apparent. ✪✪✪✪✪

SCORPIO (*Oct. 23-Nov. 21*): Take a good look at what you are up against and take action. There is no room for second-guessing. You need to be sure and to act fast. Your emotions will play games with you if you don't stick to your game plan. ✪✪

SAGITTARIUS (*Nov. 22-Dec. 21*): Rely on your past experience in order to make the right decision now. Someone is likely to play games with you mentally if you don't have your facts straight. Preparation will be the key. ✪✪✪✪

CAPRICORN (*Dec. 22-Jan. 19*): You'll be inclined to overreact if someone makes a last-minute change that upsets your plans. Keep moving in the direction you feel you need to go and you will discover how capable you are and send a strong signal that you don't need to rely on anyone for anything. ✪✪✪

EUGENIA LAST

THE LAST WORD IN ASTROLOGY

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AQUARIUS (*Jan. 20-Feb. 18*): You can enhance your life by making alterations to your living space. Money that is owed to you or that you don't have to work for will be presented in an unusual set of circumstances. A promise made must be kept. ✪✪✪

PISCES (*Feb. 19-March 20*): You'll be broadsided by what someone does behind your back. Don't retaliate. Do what's least expected and you will regain your status quo. It's the little things that will count today. Keep it simple and to the point. ✪✪✪

Birthday Baby: You are original and always ready to take on a challenge. You are dedicated, loyal and a leader, not a follower.

Eugenia's Web sites: ***eugenialast.com*** *for confidential consultations,* ***myspace.com/eugenialast*** *for Eugenia's blog,* ***astroadvice.com*** *for fun*

SUDOKU

Conceptis Sudoku *By Dave Green*

				9				
			8		6			
		6				7		
		8		3		2		
	9	2				6	3	
1	6	3		8		9	7	5
		5				1		
	2	1	7		8	5	6	
6	7			1			2	9

Difficulty Level ★★★ 3/02

Sudoku is a number-placing puzzle based on a 9x9 grid with several given numbers. The object is to place the numbers 1 to 9 in the empty squares so that each row, each column and each 3x3 box contains the same number only once. The difficulty level of the Conceptis Sudoku increases from Monday to Saturday.

Yesterday's SUDOKU Answer

8	3	9	2	5	7	1	6	4
2	4	6	1	9	3	5	7	8
1	5	7	4	6	8	3	2	9
3	7	8	9	4	5	6	1	2
9	6	1	8	7	2	4	5	3
5	2	4	6	3	1	9	8	7
6	8	2	3	1	4	7	9	5
7	1	3	5	8	9	2	4	6
4	9	5	7	2	6	8	3	1

Difficulty Level ★★ 3/01

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WONDERWORD®

By DAVID OUELLET

HOW TO PLAY: All the words listed below appear in the puzzle — horizontally, vertically, diagonally, even backward. Find them and **CIRCLE THEIR LETTERS ONLY. DO NOT CIRCLE THE WORD.** The leftover letters spell the Wonderword.

REGIS PHILBIN IS RETIRING Solution: 5 letters

(L)	M	O	C	T	I	S	S	E	N	N	I	U	G	C
R	(I)	P	A	I	D	E	M	E	R	O	S	E	S	R
Y	L	(V)	O	N	I	A	T	R	E	T	N	E	E	O
R	L	D	(E)	N	I	R	O	U	E	N	D	L	L	O
E	I	L	B	O	O	K	S	S	A	A	A	E	Y	N
C	O	G	E	N	A	U	E	T	C	I	U	I	T	E
O	N	N	T	K	G	N	T	E	N	K	T	H	S	R
R	A	I	T	L	E	A	D	O	D	L	H	T	E	E
D	I	N	Y	S	H	R	T	A	R	A	O	A	F	T
E	R	R	Y	N	U	R	N	X	Y	W	R	K	I	N
G	E	O	A	O	E	N	N	R	A	T	S	A	L	E
R	J	M	F	D	Y	O	A	R	I	E	I	V	P	S
E	E	M	A	F	R	L	I	F	E	T	I	M	E	E
E	M	M	Y	B	I	S	H	O	P	E	G	E	E	R
Y	E	O	J	Y	T	I	L	A	N	O	S	R	E	P

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Author, Betty, Bishop, Books, Bronx, Crooner, Danny, Daytime, Degree, DeNiro, Emmy, Entertain, Fame, Four Decades, Guinness, Joey, Joy Senese, Kathie Lee, Kelly, Lifestyles, Lifetime, Live, Manhattan, Media, Millionaire, Morning, Notre Dame, Parade, Personality, Presenter, Record, Reege, Ripa, Roses, Sitcom, Star, Sure, Ugly, Vieira, Walk

Yesterday's Answer: Backstage

SALE Tablets of Wonderword for kids appeal to younger fans of the puzzle. Each has 150 puzzles with answers and is priced at $4.95 each (US funds only; payable to Universal Uclick, not $5 postage for the first Wonderword, $1 plus for each additional book. Send to Wonderword, 1130 Walnut St., Kansas City, MO 64106 or call toll free 1-800-846-8664.

CLASSIFIED ADS

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WHATZIT Solution: The game is up

www.saipantribune.com

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VACANCY

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- Excellent computer skills, particularly with MS Office – Excel, Word, PowerPoint.
- Accounting Software knowledge particularly Quick-Books is required.
- Experience in taxation, accounting functions, analytical in accounting information
- Some HR/Payroll Background helpful.
- Strong organizational skills with the ability to multitask and can work independently.
- Able to effectively communicate with all levels of personnel.
- Good command of the English language in verbal and written form.

POSITION SUMMARY

This position will assist in managing all aspects of the Accounting and Finance process including preparing end of the month financial statements, general ledger reconciliations, bank reconciliations, tax preparations. In addition, this position will also assist in handling all company accounting transactions, including general ledger maintenance receivables & payables, invoicing control, accounts analysis, developing & enforcing financial procedures and controls, managing and reducing costs, etc.

This position is in urgent hiring status; all potential applicants, please respond and email cvpalijo@hotmail.com or fax your resume to (670)322-4900.

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Saipan Tribune

VACANCY ANNOUNCEMENT

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Office of the Clerk of Court
Superior Court
CNMI Judicial Branch

The Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands (CNMI) Superior Court is seeking highly motivated people for the positions of Deputy Clerk, Office of the Clerk of Court.

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Saturday Issue:

- All ads placed Friday before 12 noon will come out Saturday issue and anything placed thereafter will be published on Monday issue.

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Classified Ads

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REFUNDS

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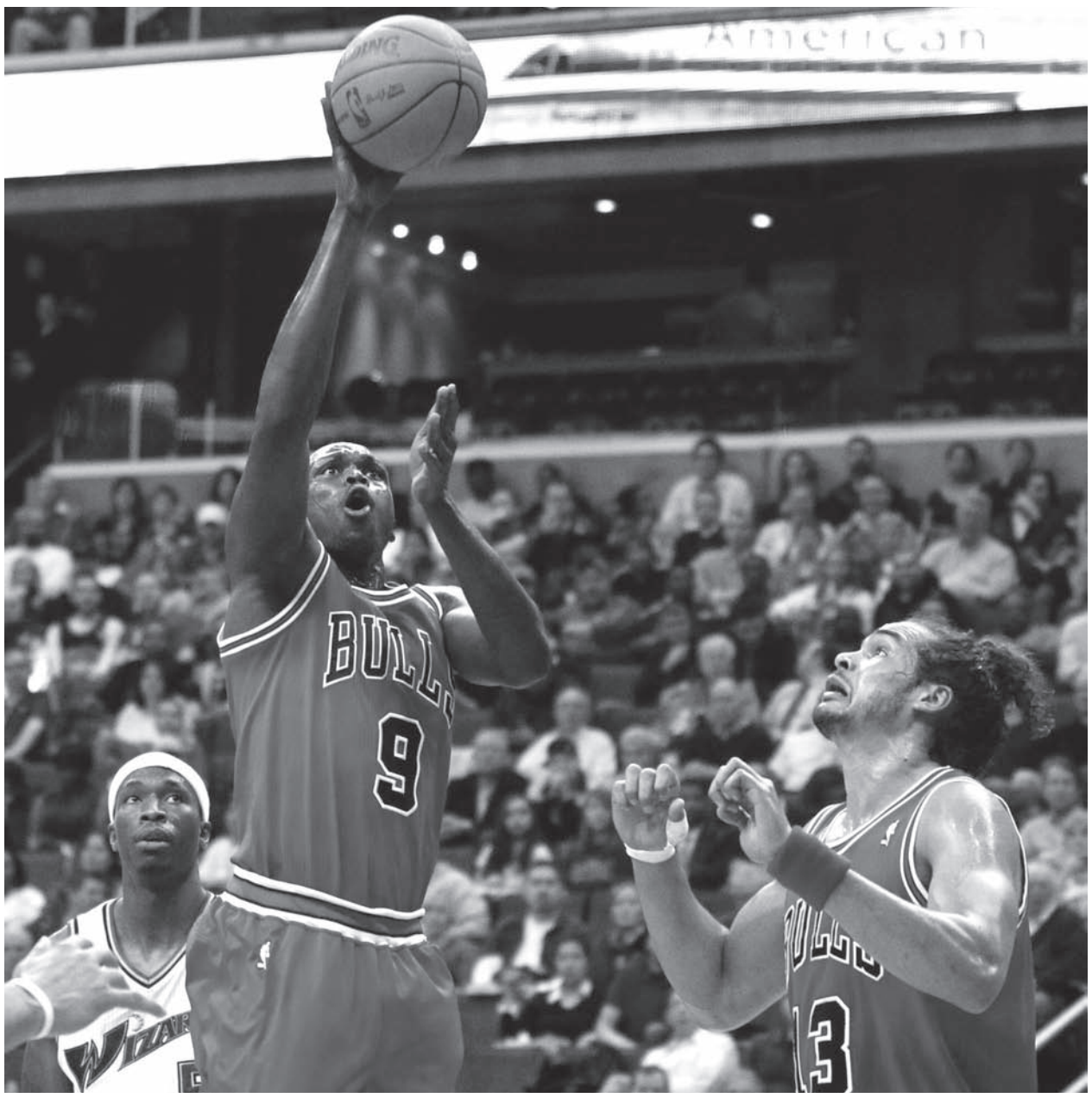
Bulls top Wizards, move a game behind Heat



AP

Chicago Bulls' Loul Deng (9) shoots while teammate Joakim Noah (13) and Washington Wizards' Josh Howard, back left, look on during the first half of an NBA basketball game in Washington, Monday, Feb. 28, 2011.

WASHINGTON (AP)—Luol Deng and Derrick Rose scored 21 points apiece, Joakim Noah had 19, and the Chicago Bulls beat the Washington Wizards 105-77 Monday night to move within a game of the Miami Heat in the Eastern Conference.

The Bulls never trailed as they won their third straight and seventh in eight games. Rose brought out some oohs and aahs with a backward between-the-legs pass to Noah for a fast-break dunk, and Deng was already walking to the locker room before his 3-pointer at the halftime buzzer from the corner swished through the net to give Chicago a 13-point lead at the break.

By the fourth quarter, they were having loads of fun. Rose fed Deng and Noah for back-to-back dunks that pushed the lead to 24 with 2 1/2 minutes to play, and then the reserves came in and finished off the game, with the Chicago fans saving the biggest roar for Brian Scalabrine's garbage-time jumper.

Rose also had nine assists, Noah pulled down 11 rebounds, and Carlos Boozer had 12 points and 10 rebounds for the Bulls, who are even with the Heat in the loss column as part of a three-way battle with the Boston Celtics for the No. 1 seed in the East.

This was the type of game Chicago needed to win easily, ahead of a breathtaking trio of games at Atlanta, Orlando and Miami to finish up a five-game road trip. The Bulls led by 21 entering the fourth quarter and were able to coast from there.

Andray Blatche scored 15 points, and Nick Young had 14 for the Wizards, who have lost six in a row and 15 of 17. Mike Bibby was so anxious to get out of town that he gave up $6.2 million in a contract buyout on Monday after playing just two games with Washington; he had been acquired last week in a trade with Atlanta.

The Wizards shot 36 percent, were outrebounded 56-39 and managed only four fast break points. No. 1 overall pick John Wall was just 3 for 14 from the field and finished with nine points and 10 assists.

Suns 104, Nets 103, OT

At Newark, Channing Frye hit a 3-pointer with 6.6 seconds to play in overtime as Phoenix spoiled Deron Williams' home debut for New Jersey.

The Nets narrowly missed pulling this one out, but Kris Humphries' tip-in of Williams' floater came a split second after the final buzzer.

Williams had 13 points and a season-high 18 assists, including five in rallying New Jersey from a seven-point deficit late in the fourth quarter.

Reserve Marcin Gortat led the Suns with 17 points and Hakim Warrick had 16.

Brook Lopez had 28 points for New Jersey and Anthony Morrow added 22.

Celtics 107, Jazz 102

At Salt Lake City, Ray Allen scored 25 points and Paul Pierce added 21, including a late 3-pointer and pair of free throws, to help Boston hold on.

The loss spoiled the home debut of new Jazz players Devin Harris and Derrick Favors, who were acquired last week in the trade that sent for All-Star Deron Williams to New Jersey.

Al Jefferson had 28 points and a season-high 19 rebounds for Utah, which has dropped six straight at home — the team's worst home skid since 1982.

Allen hit a 23-footer for a 103-99 Celtics lead with 42.3 seconds left. Jefferson had a chance to cut it to one point but couldn't convert a three-point play.

Rajon Rondo then hit a 15-foot jumper to seal the win for Boston.

Nuggets 100, Hawks 90

At Denver, newcomers Raymond Felton and Wilson Chandler combined to score 31 points to help Denver rally and improve to 3-1 since the deal that sent Carmelo Anthony to New York.

Felton had 16 points and Chandler added 15 as the Nuggets used a 8-0 surge early in the fourth quarter to pull away from the road-weary Hawks. J.R. Smith scored a team-high 19 points, while Kenyon Martin contributed 14 points and 11 rebounds.

Joe Johnson finished with 22 points and Al Horford added 21 points and 16 rebounds for the Hawks, who wrapped up a seven-game road swing with a 3-4 mark.

Kings 105, Clippers 99

At Sacramento, Marcus Thornton scored 16 of his 29 points in the fourth quarter for the hosts.

Amid rumors that the team is moving to Anaheim, Kings fans organized a "Here We Stay" campaign to help keep the team in Sacramento, where they have been since the 1985-86 season. A sellout crowd, only the second of the season, began to chant "Here we stay" during player introductions.

Blake Griffin had 27 points and 12 rebounds for the Clippers, who lost their fifth straight and eighth in nine games. Randy Foye scored 23 points and newly acquired Mo Williams had 16.

Beno Udrih had 19 points and seven assists and Omri Casspi had 15 points and eight rebounds for the Kings.

Spurs' Parker out 2-4 weeks with calf injury

SAN ANTONIO (AP)—Spurs point guard Tony Parker will likely miss two to four weeks with a sore calf muscle, handing the NBA's top team its first significant injury after coasting all season with unusually perfect health.

Parker strained his left calf in Sunday's win over Memphis. He had started every game during a blazing start for the NBA-best Spurs (49-10), who can already match their win total from last season Tuesday when they play the Grizzlies again.

Parker is averaging 17.1 points and 6.6 assists, piloting a refreshened offense that is quicker, higher-scoring and no longer revolving around Tim Duncan.

"When Tony's on the court the whole dynamic of the team changes," Spurs guard Manu Ginobili said after Sunday's victory. "He's so good at breaking the first line and finding open teammates or finishing. He gives us another great weapon offensively."

George Hill will likely take Parker's place. He'll get only a couple warm-up games in the starting lineup before the Spurs face LeBron James and Miami for the first time Friday.

The Heat are the first of two big back-to-back games for the Spurs, who also play the Los Angeles Lakers on Sunday in their third meeting this season.

Parker was injured when he collided with Grizzlies guard Mike Conley in the second quarter. The 28-year-old Parker did not return to the game.

The Spurs didn't practice Monday. Parker will stay in San Antonio for rehab while the Spurs travel to Memphis and then Cleveland this week, before coming home to play Miami.

Health has been a major factor behind San Antonio's surprise return to championship form. Like Parker, Duncan has started every game, and Ginobili has started all but one.

San Antonio was hardly as lucky the previous two years. Injuries to their Big Three crippled the Spurs in the two seasons after reaching the Western Conference finals in 2008, leading many to write off the four-time champions as too old and fragile.

Indeed, even Ginobili wasn't rewarded with a three-year contract extension last April until the All-Star proved he was still among the league's best guards, and not permanently troubled by a pair of shaky ankles.

Parker's last major injury was a broken hand late last season. Hill took his place in the starting lineup, and when Parker returned for the playoffs, he came off the bench for eight games before reclaiming his starting job.

NBA BRIEFS

Gallinari out up to 10 days with fractured big toe

DENVER (AP)—The Nuggets will be without forward Danilo Gallinari for a week to 10 days after X-rays revealed that he had fractured his left big toe. Gallinari stubbed his toe late in a loss to Portland on Friday night and was held out of Monday night's 100-90 victory over the Atlanta Hawks because of continuing soreness. Soon after beating Atlanta 100-90, the Nuggets announced that the toe was broken. Gallinari scored 30 points against the Blazers, one shy of tying his career high. The 22-year-old forward was acquired by the Nuggets in the blockbuster deal that sent Chauncey Billups and Carmelo Anthony to the New York Knicks. He had two points in his debut with Denver last Thursday in a win over Boston.

Jamison to miss rest of year after finger surgery

CLEVELAND (AP)—Cavaliers forward Antawn Jamison will likely miss the remainder of the season with a broken finger that will require surgery. Jamison fractured his left little finger during the second half of Cleveland's 95-91 loss to Philadelphia on Sunday night. The team said he will have an operation on Tuesday at the Cleveland Clinic and that he will be sidelined for at least five weeks. Jamison's loss is yet another blow to the Cavaliers, who have the league's worst record but have shown some positive signs recently. The club is 3-3 since ending a record 26-game losing streak. The Cavaliers are already without center Anderson Varejao, who tore a tendon in his ankle.

Bibby gives up $6.2M in buyout

WASHINGTON (AP)—Mike Bibby has reached a buyout agreement with the Washington Wizards, freeing him from the last-place team after just two games. Bibby agreed to give up his entire $6.2 million salary for next season and was waived on Monday. The move came on the eve of the deadline for players to be released in order to eligible for a playoff roster if they sign with another team. Bibby was acquired last week in a five-player trade that sent Kirk Hinrich to the Atlanta Hawks. He played in 29 minutes in his two games with the Wizards, scoring two points and making eight assists.

Warriors reach buyout agreement with Murphy, place him on waivers

OAKLAND, Calif. (AP)—The Golden State Warriors have reached a buyout agreement with Troy Murphy and placed him on waivers. The move announced Monday had been expected since the Warriors acquired Murphy and a second-round draft pick in a trade last week that sent Brandan Wright and Dan Gadzuric to New Jersey. The 6-foot-11, 245-pound Murphy will likely draw strong interest from playoff teams who are looking for another big man, such as Miami, Boston, Orlando and Dallas. Murphy was originally taken by the Warriors with the 14th overall pick in the 2001 draft. He has averaged 11.8 points and 8.5 rebounds in his career with Golden State, Indiana and New Jersey. Terms of the buyout agreement were not disclosed.

Redskins cut Portis, ends 7 eventful years in DC

WASHINGTON (AP)—"Southeast Jerome" is officially gone for good. As well as "Dolla Bill" and "Sheriff Gonna Getcha."

Clinton Portis was released by the Washington Redskins on Monday, ending a charismatic and sometimes contentious seven-year stay that, for a while at least, made him the face of the franchise.

Injuries and money led to coach Mike Shanahan's decision. Portis had played in only 13 games over the last two seasons because of a severe concussion in 2009 and a torn groin muscle in 2010.

Portis was scheduled to make $8.3 million next season, and Shanahan made it clear at the NFL combine that the Redskins wouldn't keep the 29-year-old running back at that price.

"We're going to let him test the market," Shanahan said, "and see what's out there for him."

Portis told 106.7 The Fan that he was given a chance to restructure his contract, but he said it would be "hard to accept not being the go-guy."

"It was kind of a mutual decision," Portis said. "They could have sat and held on and played around. They gave me an opportunity to further my career and go somewhere where I can help."

Portis is 77 yards of 10,000 career rushing yards and leaves Washington 648 shy of one of his oft-stated goals—Hall of Famer John Riggins' franchise record.

"If the record meant that much, I think I could stay in D.C. to get it," Portis said. "Although I wanted it, I don't think I wanted it bad enough to ... continue to endure the area to get it. If John Riggins is the only name you can say did more than me as a Redskins running back, that's great company to be in. And I'm OK with that."

Portis will be most remembered for his colorfully productive 2005 season, when he set a franchise single-season rushing record (1,516 yards) and led the team to its first playoff berth in six years while playing dress-up along the way. Every Thursday during the season's homestretch he would appear in costume, playing a wide range of characters that also included "Bro Sweets" and "Inspector Two-Two."

Portis is also one who freely speaks his mind, and that frequently got him into trouble over the years. He picked on his offensive line. He derisively called coach Jim Zorn a "genius." He said female reporters are naturally "going to want somebody" when they see undressed players in the locker room.

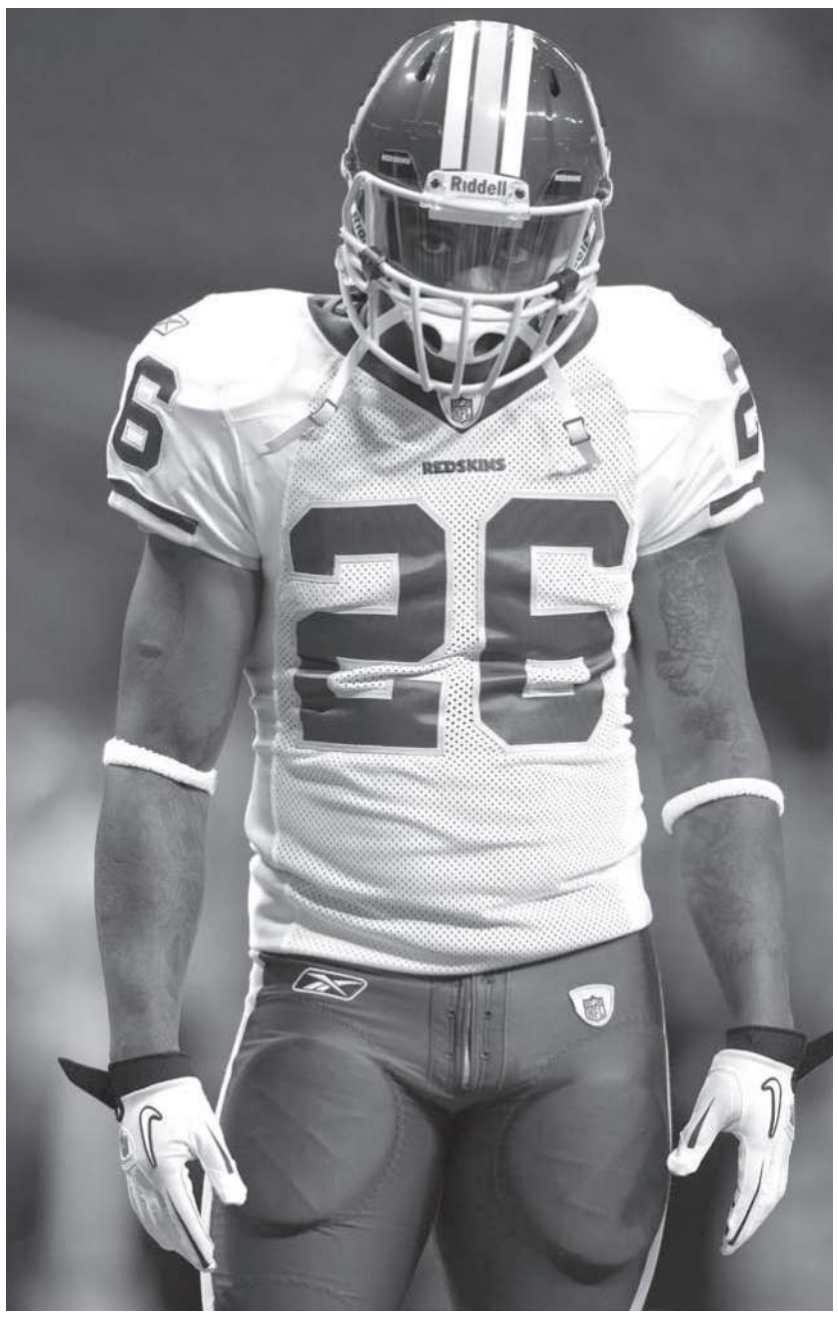
He even belittled Riggins, saying the local legend had it easier in the 1980s because it was "really not hard to be a great running back when you've got that talent all around you."

"I always spoke the truth," Portis said Monday, "and I think that's bigger to me than the rushing record or the touchdowns or anything else."

Portis was also profoundly affected by the death of Redskins safety and good friend Sean Taylor in 2007. Both played for the University of Miami.

"Clinton provided excitement from the very first time he touched the ball as a Redskin, and we were lucky to witness every ounce of energy, effort and passion he has given ever since," Redskins owner Dan Snyder said in a statement released by the team. "We have been through a lot both on and off of the field and we would like to wish him and his family the very best."

Portis played in only five games in 2010 before the groin injury ended his season. He rushed for a career-low 227 yards on 54 carries with two touchdowns.



AP

This Sept. 26, 2010, file photo shows Washington Redskins running back Clinton Portis before an NFL football game against the St. Louis Rams, in St. Louis.

Critical week on NFL *labor scene*

NEW YORK (AP)—This is the week hardly anyone expected to actually arrive: deadline time for the NFL and its players' union.

The collective bargaining agreement expires Thursday night, and the owners could lock out the players. Even before that, though, the Players Association is likely to decertify to prevent a lockout and take its chances in court.

Both sides will resume meeting with a federal mediator Tuesday and probably Wednesday in Washington; seven recent sessions brought little progress. The 32 team owners have meetings Wednesday and Thursday in nearby Chantilly, Va., where they will be briefed on the status of negotiations before deciding on the next step.

Just ahead stands the unthinkable: a labor shutdown in America's most prosperous and popular sport.

"Everything is hypothetical right now," new 49ers coach Jim Harbaugh said Monday. "I'm just optimistic we can get something done."

If the league locks out the players, everything stops except the NFL draft on April 28-30—and any interviews or workouts teams conduct with college players leading up to the draft. After that, teams can't contact their picks, nor can they sign undrafted rookies.

Veterans also will be in limbo, with no offseason workouts (OTAs) or minicamps held. The longer the impasse lasts, the more in jeopardy training camps, the preseason and—gasp!—the regular season become.

Dolphins quarterback Chad Henne already has plans for practicing with teammates.

"We picked out a spot to work out at, and we're trying to get guys back in town," Henne said. "Normally our offseason program starts March 28, so we're going to try to have everybody back March 28 ... and hopefully a lot of guys will come back and we can work out and we can build some bonding and camaraderie."

The financial losses are almost incalculable, but would grow by tens of millions of dollars the longer the work stoppage lasts. The NFL is a $9 billion industry, but not when it comes to a halt.

Should the union decertify, something it did in 1989, only to reform, individual players would seek a court injunction preventing a lockout. Players on every team approved decertification in votes during the season.

But going through the courts can be a long, winding journey.

The league filed an unfair labor practice charge against the union with the National Labor Relations Board in mid-February, saying the NFLPA "consistently has failed to confer in good faith" during negotiations for a new contract. The NFL claimed the union's plans to decertify overrode its interest in reaching a new CBA, a charge union spokesman George Atallah said had "absolutely no merit."

If the union decertifies, which it must do before the CBA expires at 11:59 p.m. Thursday night, Commissioner Roger Goodell and the NFL in essence would have nobody to negotiate with. Then again, the players wouldn't have executive director DeMaurice Smith representing them anymore.

Already, some teams have withheld 2011 playbooks from veterans, particularly teams with new coaches, offensive or defensive coordinators. Indeed, several teams are putting together two sets of playbooks, one for use if there is an agreement and offseason workouts take place, and one in the event there are no OTAs or minicamps.

"There have never been any restrictions on when you could or couldn't hand out playbooks or do the normal offseason stuff," Cardinals coach Ken Whisenhunt said.

"Obviously, we have different schedules planned," Broncos coach John Fox added, "but all 32 teams are dealing with this."

Judge David Doty in Minneapolis is dealing with an NFLPA motion that $4 billion in TV rights fees from the NFL's network partners should be placed in escrow rather than spread among the teams in 2011—even if no games are played. The league's agreements with the networks calls for payments to be made whether games take place next season or not, and the NFL says lockout protection is a normal part of such contracts.

Doty's decision likely won't come before Thursday night's CBA deadline.

Beckett has mild concussion symptoms

FORT MYERS, Fla. (AP)—Red Sox right-hander Josh Beckett has mild concussion symptoms, according to the team, after he was hit in the back of the head on Monday during batting practice before Boston's exhibition game against the Minnesota Twins at City of Palms Park.

Beckett walked from the field on his own, with trainers at his side. But after being examined by a doctor, he was sent home to rest. The Red Sox expect an update on Beckett Tuesday.

Beckett was in the outfield when coaching staff assistant Ino Guerrero attempted to use a fungo bat to return a ball to the infield. Instead, the ball hit Beckett.

"He's exhibiting symptoms of a mild concussion," manager Terry Francona said after Boston's 7-5 win. "He's been evaluated already. We'll get someone to look at him tonight, and when he comes in tomorrow, we'll check on him to see what level, if any, of a workout he can do or should do. So, go from there."

Beckett is coming off a disappointing, injury-riddled 6-6 season, in which he had a 5.78 ERA. Beckett, a 1999 first-round pick of the Florida Marlins, is 112-74 for his career, with four shutouts and nine complete games. This is his sixth season with the Red Sox.

"I think it hit him in the temple," Francona said. "I bet you it felt like a bolt of lightning. That's not really what you're expecting. It's just a fluke thing. Fortunately, it hit Beckett in the head. It's better than hitting him in the shoulder."

Beckett started Sunday night against the Twins and lasted two innings. He was scheduled to pitch next on Thursday against the Phillies in Fort Myers. But Francona said it was too early to make a decision on that yet.

"Let's just wait till tomorrow," he said, "and see how he does."

Miguel Cabrera plays 1st game since arrest

LAKELAND, Fla. (AP)—After almost two weeks of turmoil, Miguel Cabrera returned to where he's most comfortable: a baseball field.

Cabrera played his first game following his arrest, going 0-for-2 with a walk as the Detroit Tigers' designated hitter Monday in a 6-2 win over the New York Yankees.

Cabrera batted cleanup, his first appearance since his arrest on Feb. 16 on suspicion of driving under the influence and resisting an officer without violence. He is to be arraigned on March 16.

After the game, he refused to answer any non-baseball questions. Cabrera said he is looking forward to playing the field, but manager Jim Leyland said he will DH again Tuesday against Toronto, then play the field Wednesday against Houston.

"It's kind of slow playing DH," Cabrera said. "I really prefer playing at first. I was starting to feel normal in batting practice, but I am looking forward to playing in the field."

Cabrera hit a sharp grounder down the third-base line in the first off CC Sabathia, but Alex Rodriquez made a backhand grab and threw out Cabrera out at first. Cabrera hit a similar ball in the third, but Rodriguez made another backhand stab and retired Cabrera at first. Cabrera drew a walk in his final at-bat and was removed for a pinch runner.

Leyland said Cabrera looked to be in spring training form. Cabrera hit .328 with 38 homers and 126 RBIs last season, finishing second in AL MVP voting to Texas' Josh Hamilton.

"It's going to take some time to get ready," Leyland said. "He'll be fine."

Cabrera was greeted warmly by fans before each at-bat.

"I heard the applause," Cabrera said. "It was good to get the first game out of the way, but I can do better. I was thinking about seeing strikes, but I heard the fans supporting me."

Hoopaholics to join 'March Madness'

By ROSELYN B. MONROYO
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REPORTER

The Hoopaholics will be heading to Guam later this month to compete in the March Madness Pacific Regional Basketball Championships at the Coral Reef Fitness and Sports Complex in Andersen Air Force Base.

The "March Madness" will run from March 20 to 26 with the Hoopaholics having a 13-man roster for the tournament. The team is composed of Dave and John Sablan, Gus Palacios, James Lee, Jacob Villagomez, James Villacrusis, Marlon Cabrera, Kelvin Fitial, Jawn Joyner, Carlos Deleon Guerrero, Ionis Rasa, Mel Manibusan, and Jerry Diaz. Diaz is also part of the coaching staff, teaming up with Joe Diaz.

The Hoopaholics will be pitted against teams from military bases in Hawaii, Guam, Japan, and Korea.

Host Guam will have teams from Andersen Air Force Base, USS *Frank Cable*, and Naval Base, and the Guam Senior National Team. Hawaii will field men's and women's teams from Hickam Air Force Base. Japan will be represented by squads from Yokota Air Base, Misawa Air Base, Kadena Air Base, and USS *George Washington*.

Completing the tournament are teams from Korea's Osan Air Base, Kunsan Air Base, and Yongsan Army Garrison, the Garapan Rollers, and the CNMI National Team.

"Team Hoopaholics as well as Team Rollers are only participating in this event for the love of basketball and to gain experience together with our close friends. We understand that the level of competition is going to be high, perhaps even tougher than the Micronesian Games given the talent that will be participating in this event. But again, the players from Hoopaholics understand that and we are just honored and excited to be part of this," Lee said.

"This is a military sponsored regional competition that features some of the best military, junior college level teams and talents in the western pacific area," Lee added.

NTT Docomo Pacific and Subway backed the Hoopaholics participation to the "March Madness" and they want to thank the two companies and the supporters of their fundraisers for making their trip to Guam possible.

The Hoopaholics will have two more fundraisers before they head to Guam. This Saturday, the team will wash cars at the parking lot of McDonald's Middle Road. The car wash fundraiser will run from 9am to 4pm with each costumer paying only $5 per car. Then on March 12, the Hoopaholics will sell hot lunch for $5 at the Oleai Beach pavilion.

YVONNE

From Page 28

Games record of 61.30 seconds.

Bennett's father, Ambrose, said even though his daughter is having difficulties racing indoor, the BSU sprinter still improved her times.

In the 200m race in the Bronco Open Indoor Meet, the BSU freshman tallied 25.87 seconds, which is faster than her Micro Games mark of 26.41 seconds. The older Bennett said if Yvonne's times are translated in outdoor, her 25.87 seconds in 200m could be equivalent to about 24.87 seconds. The 57.84 seconds in the 400m indoor is about 56.84 in outdoor.

Then in the 4x400m relay run in the same indoor meet, Bennett had deja vu, according to his father.

"Yvonne ran the third leg for the B team relay and when she got the baton, Boise State was far behind just like in the Micro Games. However, by the time Yvonne passed the baton off to the last runner, Boise State had an amazing lead and went on to win," Ambrose said in a press release forwarded to *Saipan Tribune*.

In last year's Micro Games, Yvonne was the finisher for the CNMI, which was behind Palau after three runners before the BSU sprinter ran for her dear life and completed the Commonwealth's amazing comeback.

Ambrose added Yvonne said the crowed really cheered for her and her coach even commented that it looks like BSU have found a place for her on their 4x400m relay A team for the Indoor Championships. Yvonne went on to post the fastest split time in the relay at 57.08 seconds.

Less than a month later, Bennett broke her split time in the 4x400m relay run in WAC competition when she clocked in at 55.57 seconds. She teamed up with Mackenzie Flannigan, Cyntrail Pierce, and Taryn Campos and the quartet finished the 4x400m relay race in 3:44.64 for a runner-up place against Louisiana Tech.

Bennett and company's time is the new BSU indoor record, passing the 1988 mark (3:45.60) of Dommell Butler, Stacia Neeley, Crystal Young and Sabrina Johnson.

"Yvonne is now officially in the record books at Boise State and without a doubt our Sprint Queen of Micronesia is getting faster and faster," the proud father said.

"She is concentrating mostly on bringing her time down by getting better at the mechanics of running. Yvonne sends her thanks to everyone who supported her and says she can't wait for outdoor season to come and winning the Athlete of the Year award has truly inspired her to do even better," said the older Bennett, who received the coveted plum last month at the NMASA Awards Banquet on behalf of his daughter.

Next up for Yvonne will be the NCAA Indoor Championships later this month in Tempe, Arizona and she will be part of BSU's A relay team. She will also race in the 200m run.

SAINTS

From Page 28

Saints up against the undefeated Ol'Aces for the championship.

The Saints defeated Ol'Aces, 30-27, in Game 1 to salt away the latter's twice-to-beat advantage and force a do-or-die second game.

The Saints managed a three-point lead, 15-12, in the first half and held on to trade baskets with Ol'Aces in the second half.

The Saints' Brandon Aulerio led the way with six points in the first half, while teammates Josh Kiyoshi and Luizi Reyes added four points apiece in the second half. Aulerio and Eli Aughenbaugh paced the Saints in scoring with six markers each.

In Game 2, Ol'Aces took a 20-15 lead at halftime largely in part to Trevor Ogumoro and Ryan Ichihara combining for 14 points.

The Saints, however, dug deep after the break and pulled off the comeback. Aulerio came up big off the bench with eight points in the clutch. Leo Galarse led the Saints in the game with 11 points and took home MVP honors for the division.

The U14 division included RBC Dynamics, RBC Young Guns and the G-Stars. It came down to Dynamics and the Young Guns in what was a nail-biter of a championship.

Young Guns managed a one-point lead at the break, 17-16, thanks to eight point from Emerson Feria, but Dynamics battled back at crunch time to steal it in the end, 28-27. Notably, Dynamics did it with teamwork, allowing just 10 points and used five different players for their 12 markers in the period. Dynamics' Prince Factor led the team with seven points and won MVP honors.

The U12 division consisted of RBC Dynamics and RBC Young Guns with the former winning the championship, 23-8.

Dynamics took the lead early, 13-4, in the first half. Kyle Rios led the charge with five points.

Dynamics' defense held strong down the home stretch as they went on to nearly triple Young Guns' tally.

Mike Cenir led Dynamics with eight points and his teammate Alcor Adman won the finals MVP trophy.

Games were conducted with two 16-minute halves in all divisions in a double-elimination format.

After conclusion of the tourney, all championship and runner-up teams were presented with team trophies.

"We'd like to send a special thanks to Martha's store and Star Marianas for providing cold drinks over the weekend, thanks to all the parents for their much needed support and thanks to the older RBC members who volunteered over the weekend as score keepers and table officials," said Rollers Basketball Club head coach Joe Diaz.

RBC's 18A team, meanwhile, is gearing up for Guam's March Madness Pacific Regional Basketball Invitational tournament at Andersen Air Force Base from March 20, to March 26.

Half of the proceeds of last weekend's tournament and the Cupid Fun Run fundraiser will help cover transportation and accommodation costs of the trip. The other half is being set aside for the U16 Rollers who will compete in Anaheim, California for the 2012 Coca-Cola National Invitational Youth Basketball Tournament.

After March Madness, RBC is considering organizing a two weekend-long 21-25 age division tournament. More details will be released after confirmation.

IP&E

From Page 28

away from claiming the second semis spot after recovering from a slow first half and playing better in the second.

Rollers led at the break, 50-41, before Kae Bernardo anchored IP&E Konflikt's comeback in the third period. Bernardo had 10 markers in the third quarter to power IP&E Konflikt to a 66-61 advantage, going into the payoff period.

Rollers were held to 11 points in the third with only Jose Ulloa making more than one field goal in that canto off a layup and a triple. Manny Matagolai, who had 17 in the first half, was scoreless in the third.

Matagolai tried redeeming himself in the fourth canto, but IP&E Konflikt showed more poise in the homestretch to preserve the lead and the win. One free throw each from Bruce Berline and Edsel Mendoza and seven points from Brendon Talania bailed IP&E Konflikt out of trouble in the final canto.

Bernardo paced IP&E Konflikt with his 21 points, while Elmer Esdrelon and Talania added 15 and 13, respectively.

In the second game, the Ol'Aces outgunned Satbahi in the last three and a half minutes of the match, 11-2, to notch their fifth win.

The Ol'Aces were ahead by only one, 67-66, with 3:32 left in the fourth, when Satbahi missed a lot of outside shots and hit only one field goal.

Despite its offensive struggle, Satbahi had a chance to tie the game when the Ol'Aces' lead was sliced to three, 71-68, with 1:06 left in the match. However, Elgene Mangali muffed a triple and Satbahi committed an unsportsmanlike foul on Trevor Ogumoro, who was headed for a fastbreak play.

Ogumoro made two charities and Freddie Pelisamen added one more free throw to seal the deal for the Ol'Aces. Ogumoro top-scored for the Ol'Aces with 21 markers.

First Game

IP&E Konflikt 79 – Bernardo 21, Esdrelon 15, Talania 13, Berline 9, Mendoza 9, De Vero 5, Tumaquip 2, Santos 2.

Rollers 76 – Matagolai 23, Ulloa 17, Santos 17, Hambros 6, Teregeyo 3, Reyes 2.

Scoring by quarters: 24-30, 41-50, 66-61, 79-76.

Second Game

Ol'Aces 78 – Ogumoro 21, Pelisamen 14, Kenty 12, Camacho 8, Iginoef 8, Tumaquip 8, Renguul 2, Lisua 2.

Satbahi 68 – Demapan 13, Mangali 12, Abuel 12, Aquino 10, Mortos 10, Paraiso 4, Pantaleon 3, Palacios 2, Camacho 2.

Scoring by quarters: 24-12, 38-27, 53-50, 78-68.

GUAM

From Page 28

XTERRA," the 32-year-old triathlete said.

With Carey still unfamiliar with the course and its restrictions, she started slow and had to endure the first 10-kilometer hilly ride, leaving her behind the main pack.

"My plan was to ride with the first group as long as I could. However, the wind was really blowing hard during the race. I had to pedal hard on hills because of the strong wind. I rode with Lewie Tenorio for most of the race and it was fun to ride with my training buddy from Saipan. He helped me stay strong," Carey said.

"The last 40K, I was alone and it was hard because I didn't have anyone to draft with. I challenged myself to get under three hours and 30 minutes and I was lucky I finished right on that time. It was a good start for the year and it made me excited for the season and gave me confidence in XTERRA," she added.

After the race, Carey celebrated with her fellow Saipan riders—Tenorio, Kieran Daly, Matt Mancao, Susan Marchiti, Steve Nutting, John Jones, Jim Arenovski, and Derek Chambers.

"Many Saipan riders made it to the podium. Kieran, Lewie, Susan, and Team Manatee. We had a great night of celebration," said Carey, who thanked PIC Guam, Ben Ferguson, Brabu, IT&E, and Triple J for their support.

"Next up is XTERRA Saipan and I will do my very best in next week's race," Carey said.

Carey finished third behind Renata Bucher and Shonny Vanlandingham in last year's XTERRA Saipan with a time of 3:11:07. Before joining last weekend's Tour De Guahan, she went to Australia for a month-long training under renowned coach Col Stewart, who mentored former and current Olympians.

TRIBUNE SPORTS SCORES

NBA STANDINGS

EASTERN CONFERENCE

Atlantic Division

	W	L	Pct	GB
Boston	43	15	.741	_
New York	30	27	.526	12 1/2
Philadelphia	30	29	.508	13 1/2
New Jersey	17	43	.283	27
Toronto	16	44	.267	28

Southeast Division

Miami	43	17	.717	_
Orlando	38	22	.633	5
Atlanta	36	24	.600	7
Charlotte	26	33	.441	16 1/2
Washington	15	44	.254	27 1/2

Central Division

Chicago	41	17	.707	_
Indiana	26	32	.448	15
Milwaukee	22	36	.379	19
Detroit	22	39	.361	20 1/2
Cleveland	11	48	.186	30 1/2

WESTERN CONFERENCE

Southwest Division

San Antonio	49	10	.831	_
Dallas	43	16	.729	6
New Orleans	35	26	.574	15
Memphis	33	28	.541	17
Houston	30	31	.492	20

Northwest Division

Oklahoma City	36	22	.621	_
Denver	35	26	.574	2 1/2
Portland	33	26	.559	3 1/2
Utah	32	29	.525	5 1/2
Minnesota	14	46	.233	23

Pacific Division

L.A. Lakers	42	19	.689	_
Phoenix	31	27	.534	9 1/2
Golden State	26	32	.448	14 1/2
L.A. Clippers	21	40	.344	21
Sacramento	15	43	.259	25 1/2

Yesterday's Games

Phoenix 104, New Jersey 103, OT
Chicago 105, Washington 77
Denver 100, Atlanta 90
Boston 107, Utah 102
Sacramento 105, L.A. Clippers 99

BY THE ASSOCIATED PRESS

4 in a row for Natibu; Salty's holds off X-Clusive

By WALTER CEPEDA-SUTHERLAND
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REPORTER

ROSELYN B. MONROYO

Ned Norita, seen here warming up in a file photo, busted a two-RBI double in the fifth inning to help Natibu to a 19-14 victory over G-Ballers in the 2nd Annual Budweiser Chamolinian Slow-Pitch Softball League last Friday at the Capital Hill Ballfield.

Natibu downed G-Ballers, 19-14, last Friday at the Capital Hill Ballfield to remain unscathed after four matches in the 2nd Annual Budweiser Chamolinian Slow-Pitch Softball League .

Natibu leads Phat Boys, the only other undefeated team in the men's division, by a game with Salty's and V-Power not far behind at 3-1.

Other Friday winners include Salty's, which outlasted Island Apparel X-Clusive, 9-8, in the men's division; and NMC Proa, which deafeated T&C Clan, 13-5, in the women's division.

Proas notched its first win of the season in three tries, X-Clusive absorbed its first loss of the season in three games, while T&C remains winless

Natibu 19, G-Ballers 14

Natibu took an early 2-0 lead in the bottom of the first off a triple by Jerome Delos Santos; he later scored off an error.

G-Ballers answered with five runs to start the second. Paul Salalila and Lefty Shiro both led off with solo blasts and an out, a walk, and a hit later, Ray Borja knocked an RBI single followed a hit later with an RBI rip by Asap Ogumoro.

G-Ballers held Natibu in the bottom frame and went ahead, 7-2, in the top of the third off a solo homer by Jude Dickinson and an error.

Then Natibu tied it at 7-7 in the bottom frame off an RBI double by Noki Saralu, a two-run shot by J.R. Suel, and a pair of solo homeruns by Jerry Guerrero and Lawrence Dikito.

Natibu then kept G-Ballers at bay to start the fourth and went ahead, 10-7, in the bottom half off a two-RBI double by Noki Saralu and an RBI knock by Suel.

G-Ballers reclaimed the lead, 13-10, in the top of the fifth with an RBI double by Shiro, a three-run bomb by Jun Saralu, and a two-run blast by Gary Pangelinan.

Natibu answered with six runs in the bottom frame and went ahead, 16-13. Lawrence Dikito and B.J. Sablan both delivered two-run homers and Ned Norita later busted a two-RBI double.

G-Ballers came up empty in the sixth and Natibu added two runs in the bottom half off a two-run shot by Guerrero and both teams managed a run in the seventh inning.

Salty's 9, X-Clusive 8

Both teams started slow, but X-Clusive took a 4-0 lead in the top of the third inning off an RBI single by J.J. Cabrera and a two-run homerun by Poland Masaharu.

Salty's answered later in the bottom of the fourth and knotted up the score.

The first run came in off errors and a hit later Melvin Aldan nailed a two-run blast followed by a solo shot by Eric Cabrera.

Salty's then jumped ahead, 9-4, in the bottom of the sixth inning. Thomas Joab led off with a hit and scored off an error. Then a fly out later Salty's loaded the bases with a pair of walks and a hit that set up a grand slam by J.D. Dikito.

X-Clusive postured a comeback with four runs to start the seventh with a two-run blast by Leo Bobai, a freebie walk with the bases loaded, and an RBI single by Ralph Yumul, but came up a run short of forcing extra innings.

NMC Proa 13, T&C Clan 5

T&C Clan struck first in the first inning with two runs scored off a fielder's choice and an RBI single by Antonette Laniyo, but NMC Proa answered with two runs off errors and an RBI knock by Felisa Brel to take the lead, 3-2.

T&C came up empty to start the second and Proa pulled a four-run string in the bottom frame. The first run came home off errors, and then Edwina Baulechong smashed a two-RBI triple before coming home off a fielder's choice.

T&C was stuffed again in the top of the third and Proa shot ahead, 12-2, in the bottom frame.

They loaded the bases with a pair of hits and a walk that set up an RBI single by Sansannie Matsutaro followed by a pair of freebie runs off walks and a two-RBI rip by Baulechong.

After a quiet fourth, T&C managed three runs to start the fifth frame off an error and a two-RBI triple by Zerah Castro, but still trailed, 5-12.

Proa would add a run in the bottom of the sixth off an error and held in the seventh inning for the win.

Black Stallions, Ali'i Kamote's, AG Piligro victorious

By WALTER CEPEDA-SUTHERLAND
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REPORTER

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Members of current SEDA Inter-Government League frontrunner AG Piligro pose for a photo after their 11-4 road win over DYS Atdit last Friday at Buddies' Bar & Grill.

Buddies' Bar & Grill's Black Stallions and AG Piligro teams lead the Saipan Electronic Dart Association Master and Inter-Government divisions, while Jonny's Bar & Grill's Ali'i Kamote's is positioned atop the Tuesday B league standings after last week's matchups.

Black Stallions hold a 27-7 win-loss record, edging out Sniper Destroyers (25-9) of Oleai Beach Bar & Grill with Oleai's D'Companeros (18-16) nine games back in third place after last Wednesday's games.

AG Piligro's record of 20-10, meanwhile, gives it a slim lead ahead of Wild Bill's Bar & Grill's DPW Troubleshooters (18-12) and VFW's DPS Enforcers (16-14) after last Friday's matchups.

Ali'i Kamote's has a 27-3 card and is comfortably ahead of second-ranked Buddies' Salbahe Brothers (20-10) with the other six teams in the field at least 10 games back after last Tuesday's head-to-heads.

MASTER DIVISION
D'Companeros 13, M-Destroyers 4

At D'Pirates, D'Companeros won three cricket matches, swept both 501 games, three snipers matches, and a game of wild cricket for the victory. They added three 301 matches and the final 1001 contest to its total. Junnie Guevarra won all six of his matches.

Sniper Destroyers 13, Jonny's Elite 4

At Oleai, Sniper Destroyers won three cricket matches, a 501 game, three sniper matches, a wild cricket contest, and secured the victory after the first 301 match. It went on to sweep the category and added the final 1001 match to its total. Sniper Destroyers' Pam Ybanez won all six of her matches.

Black Stallions 15, Flying Dartsmen 2

At Buddies, home team Black Stallions won all matches aside from a partners 501 game and a sniper match. Stallions' Rick Elefante won all six of his matches and teammate Jun Olita scored a 116 High out.

TUESDAY B LEAGUE
Mixed Blood Shooters 9, Samaurai 6

At Jonny's, Mixed Blood Shooters won a 301 match, swept both wild cricket games, swept both 501 contests, a pair of cricket matches, and won a Burma Road game for the victory. It added the final 1001 match to its total. Mixed Blood's Joshua Wodson won all six of his matches.

GCC Carpeters 9, Matua's 6

At Oleai, home team GCC Carpeters won a 301 match, swept both wild cricket games, won a 501 contest, three cricket matches, and a Burma Road game for the victory. It added the final team 1001 match to its total.

Salbahe Brothers 10, Black Pearls 5

At Buddies, Salbahe Brothers won a pair of 301 matches, swept both wild cricket, a game of 501, and three cricket matches for the victory. It added a Burma Road game and the final team 1001 match to its total. Salbahe's Ernie Domingo scored a 126 High Out and won all six of his matches, while teammate Michelle Melchor went 5-for-5.

Ali'i Kamote's 14, Duruzi 4

At D'Pirates, visiting Ali'i Kamote's swept all four 301 matches, and both wild cricket games, won a 501 contest, and clinched the team victory after the first cricket match. Kamote's went on to take the other three 301 matches, both Burma Road games and the final team 1001 match. Kamote's Kaysie Aquino won all six matches and teammate PeeJay Naval scored a 160 High In.

INTER-GOVERNMENT LEAGUE
DPW Troubleshooters 9, PSS Drivers 6

At Wild Bill's, DPW Troubleshooters won three cricket matches, a 501 game, swept both 501 contests, won a wild cricket game, and a pair of 301 matches.

Enforcers 10, NMC PROA 5

At VFW, X-Enforcers won three cricket matches, a 501 game, a Burma Road match, a wild cricket game, and swept all four 301 matches. Enforcers' Bernard Santos scored a 120 High In.

AG Piligro 11, YS Atdit 4

At Buddies, AG Piligro swept all four cricket matches, won a 501 game, both wild cricket contests, three 301 matches, and the final team 1001 game.

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Runner-up and pole-winner Paul Salalila, left, and third place finisher Rodney Catalla flank Open Short Course Electric class winner Jude Dickinson after conclusion of last Sunday's Saipan Radio Control Racers monthly club race at the As Lito track.

Dickinson wins Open Class in February club race

By WALTER CEPEDA-SUTHERLAND
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REPORTER

Jude Dickinson won the first-ever Short Course Electric Open class race in last Sunday's Saipan Radio Control Racers Club February races held at the As Lito track.

Dickinson's Kyosho STRR also won the 1/8 Nitro Truggy and the Stock Short Course Electric A-main class races, while Emir Abuan took the checkered flag in the Stock Short Course Electric B-main class race.

The new open short course class is similar to the stock short course events, only that racers are allowed to use different tires than those in the stock classes.

Paul Salalila was the top qualifier in the open class race, but finished runner-up in the final heat. Rodney Catalla settled for third place honors; all three finishers raced Traxxas Slash cars.

Catalla's Team Associated RC8T won the pole in the Truggy class, but settled for second place and Jojo Saracho came in third with his Mugen MBX6T.

Dickinson was also the top qualifier in the Stock Short Course A-main class. He came ahead of Catalla, with Salalila finishing in the third chair.

Similarly, Abuan's Team Associated SC10 won the pole in the Stock Short Course B-main class and finished ahead of Lorenzo Deleon Guerrero's SC10 and Kurt Diaz's Traxxas Slash.

For more information about the active SRCR club, contact Catalla at 234-5911, 256-7119, or email drrc35@yahoo.com.

PILCOWA caging eyes March 27 opening

The 3rd Pilipino Contract Workers Association Basketball League is hoping to open shop on March 27 at the JP Center Basketball Court.

PILCOWA caging coordinator Pando Muleta said slots are still open and teams must contact him for more information. Other important details about the tournament will be announced later and representatives of interested teams will be requested to attend a series of meetings before the league kicks off.

Muleta added they will have competition only in the open division and they are looking to have 10 to 12 teams. Games will played every Tuesday, Thursday, and Saturday.

The Top 3 finishers will get trophies, while organizers will also give awards to top individual performers—MVPs in the regular season and finals, and winners of the various statistical departments (rebounds, assists, blocks, steals, and scoring). ***(Roselyn B. Monroyo)***

Saipan Tribune
Sports

Yvonne proves worth at Boise State

By ROSELYN B. MONROYO
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REPORTER

Boise State University made the right choice in including the CNMI's Yvonne Bennett in the Bronco's official track and field roster.

Bennett crushed records in a couple of competitions once she earned a spot on the team, one semester after red shirting with BSU. Micronesia's sprint queen smashed her own mark in the 60m, 200m, and 400m races. She also helped the Bronco pull off a come-from-behind win in a 4x400m relay run and post a record-breaking time in another 4x400m race.

The multiple gold medalist in last year's Micronesian Games timed in at 8.04 seconds in the 60m race in an indoor event, shattering her previous mark, which stood at 8.90 seconds. She also raced in the 400m run in last week's 2011 Western Athletic Conference Indoor Track and Field Championships and submitted 57.84 seconds, which is better than her Micro

See YVONNE on Page 26

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO
Yvonne Bennett shows the silver medal she won in the 4x400m relay run in the 2011 Western Athletic Conference Indoor Track and Field Championships at the Idaho Center/Jackson Track in Boise, Idaho last week.

IP&E boosts semis bid; Ol'Aces win

By ROSELYN B. MONROYO
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REPORTER

IP&E Konflikt strengthened its bid for an outright semis berth in the 2nd Docomo Pacific/UBA Men's League after edging Rollers, 79-76, on Monday night at the Gilbert C. Ada Gymnasium.

IP&E Konflikt improved to a 6-1 record for a share of first place with NMC Proa. IP&E Konflikt will face Proa tonight at 8pm with the winner joining Mobil (6-2) in the semifinals and the loser dropping to third place.

Before the IP&E Konflikt-NMC Proa tiff, the Hoopaholics and Rollers will square off in another important game at 6:30pm. The Hoopaholics hold a 3-4 record, while Rollers have a 2-5 mark. A Rollers win will eliminate the Hoopaholics and move the former to the six-team playoff round, joining the Ol'Aces (5-3), Satbahi (4-4), Mobil, NMC, and IP&E Konflikt. IT&E Fundamentalist (2-6) and dethroned champion Prospects (0-8) were already eliminated.

IP&E Konflikt moved a win

See IP&E on Page 26

ROSELYN B. MONROYO
The Ol'Aces' Jose Tumaquip breaks away from the defense of Satbahi's Elgene Mangali for a layup during the fourth quarter of their game in the UBA/Docomo caging on Monday night at the Gilbert C. Ada Gymnasium.

Guam victory lifts Mieko's confidence for XTERRA

By ROSELYN B. MONROYO
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REPORTER

After winning Sunday's 2nd Tour de Guahan, Mieko Carey said she is all set for next week's 2011 XTERRA Saipan Championship.

"It was a great warm up and it was great to win my first race of the year," said Carey, who was the top female finisher in the 110-kilometer bike race and No. 10 overall, timing in at three hours, 30 minutes, and 27 seconds.

"The race in Guam was my first bike race there. I was nervous because I did not have a chance to ride the course, but we drove around it the day before the race. I really wanted to win this race to get ready for

See GUAM on Page 26

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO
Mieko Carey, second from left, front row, poses with fellow Saipan bikers at the awards ceremony for the 2nd Tour De Guahan in Guam last Sunday.

Saints take U20 championship

» Dynamics top U12, U14 divisions

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO
The Saints went through the Ol'Aces twice en route to winning the RBC Cupid Basketball Tournament U20 championship last Sunday at the Garapan Basketball Court.

By WALTER CEPEDA-SUTHERLAND
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REPORTER

The U20 Saints along with the U12 and U14 Dynamics were crowned division champions after the conclusion of the Rollers Basketball Club Cupid Basketball Tournament last Sunday at the Garapan Basketball Court.

Aside from the eventual champions Saints, the U20 division also included RBC Dynamics, RBC Madness, and the Ol'Aces.

In the end it came down to the

See SAINTS on Page 26